THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

* * . MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER.

THE FOLLOWING circular has been addressed by the Government of India to the local Governments :

Simla, October 29, 1877.

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY, &c., &c., &c.

Sir.—The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State having requested to be supplied in future, for the use of the British Museum, with a copy of all books, &c., published in British India, whether in the vernacular languages or in English, I am to request that this request may be borne in mind, and that a copy of any papers published in the Public Works Department, may be forwarded direct to the India Office.

2. I am to add that the publications above referred to are not intended to include progress and administration reports and such like papers of which copies are at present supplied to the Secretary of State, but papers of a special, professional or scientific character which may be published under the orders of the Local Administration or by an officer of the Department.

3. The Financial Department of the Government of India will arrange for the recovery of the price of all private publications supplied to the British Museum under this arrangement.

This circular ought to give a stimulus to vernacular literature.

IS IT possible that the Talookdars of Oudh have applied to the Chief Commissioner for the abolition of the Canning College? They had themselves subscribed liberally for its establishment. This resolution of the Talookdars is attributed to sinister official influence. If this be a fact, it ought to be sifted and exposed.

A NOVEL suit was instituted in the District Court of Coimbatore. It was a suit by a father to recover damages from the murderer of his son. The plaint stated that—

1. "On the 7th April 1876, at Agharagarmakulam village in Coimbatore taluq, the defendant wrongfully murdered the plaintiff's eldest son Rama Naikan who was aged 18 years, and possessed of sufficient physical strength and prudence to earn wealth.

2. The plaintiff's son till his death, had no sickness whatever and enjoyed a sound constitution. He was a person likely to have lived a long time and possessed an understanding and physical energy which would have enabled him for a period of 40 years to earn an income of not less than 200 rupees a year clear of all expenses of the plaintiff's family.

3. The defendant, by unjustly killing such a person, has caused to the plaintiff and his family great grief, discomfort and loss.

4. He (the defendant) was entitled to 25,000 Rupees worth out of the moveable and immoveable property of his family.

I pray therefore that a decree may be passed adjudging the defendant to pay to the plaintiff Rs. 8,000, with costs of suit which sum the plaintiffs son Rama Naikan, if alive, would, have earned at 200 rupees a year during the earning period of his life, *i. e.* 40 years."

The Judge rejected the plaint on the following grounds :

"It cannot be contended that plaintiff has lost the service of his son; for considering that the son had equal rights in the family estate with his father, it cannot be said that any presumption of "service" arises. The father and son were joint partners.

Then the plaint does not set out any actual pecuniary loss but sets out a problematical estimate of what might have been gained had deceased lived. It is not alleged that the deceased ever did gain any thing for the family nor is it alleged that there has been any actual loss to the family by his death, but the plaint merely alleges that had he lived he might by his exertions and intelligence (had he chosen to use them) have gained rupees 200 a year and that he might have done this 40 years.

I do not think that this is a claim properly coming within Act XIII of 1855. There must be a loss, an actual not a problematical loss, resulting from the death, and there is no such loss in this case.

It might be different were plaintiff an old and infirm man looking to and depending on his son for his support; but plaintiff is admittedly still in the prime of life."

An appeal against this order was made to the High Court, which rejected it. But has not the murderer been brought to justice?

THE FOREIGNERS, it seems, balance equally in the Turkish and Russian armies. The Turks have a German at the head of their central army, an Englishman in command of their Black Sea fleet, two Prussians prominent among their engineers, an Egyptian taking the lead in their artillery-department, and another Englishman handling their cavalry. The Russians have five or six German Generals, a Polish Chief of Staff, two Armenians holding commands in Asia, and a variety of other foreigners scattered through their service.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE says : "It would seem from a paragraph in Mr. Egerton's speech at the installation of the young Raja of Kapurthala, that the European Superintendentship is not to be done away with, and that no experiment of managing the State through a native council will be tried. Our contemporary asks, why should not the experiment now being tried in Patiala be tried in Kapurthala? In point of population the latter State is not half as large as an ordinary Punjab district. Why should not the pay of the Resident deducted from the natives of the State, be more than that of a Deputy Commissioner of the third class? Is it intended to keep this snug appointment for Government favorites? Favoritism is never pleasant to see: but favoritism at the expense of a native State is of the meanest kind."

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS has the following : "Hindus say it is always cloudy on this their great bathing day. We have watched the thing carefully for nearly a score of years, and must confess that, though this festival comes in the clear days of October or November it cannot be denied that, as was the case this year, the sky is usually draped with clouds on this particular day." These coincidences are remarkable.

PROFESSOR Monier Williams proposes for the Indian Institute at Oxford three Professors, viz., one each of Sanscrit, Arabic and Persian; one reader in Indian History and Geography, and another in Indian Law and Political Economy: four teachers, viz., one of Hindi and Hindustani, one of Bengali, one of Marathi, and one of Telegu and Tamil.

TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER.

QUEENSLAND, Australia, is following the example of California in efforts to discourage Chinese immigration. Where shall the Chinaman go to? Has he no right to room on this planet?

THERE is to be be a Roman Catholic Archbishop in Scotland and four Bishops, *viz.* The Archbishop of St. Andrews and Bishops of Aberdeen, Lismore, Moray, and Glasgow. So Romanism is getting a strong hold in Scotland.

THE EMPLOYMENT of women in the telegraph department has been a complete success in England. Over 1,100 are employed in London, and there has been but one dismissal in four years.

THE FOLLOWING FACTS are worth noting. The first lucifer match was made in 1829; the first steel pen in 1830; the first letter envelope in 1839. The first watches were made at Nuremburg in 1477; the first balloon ascent was made in 1783; the first newspaper advertisement in 1652; kerosene was first used for lighting in 1826; the first iron steamship was built in 1830.

THE LAKE SHORE and Michigan Southern Railroad Company have paid for sixty-five of the eighty-one lives lost at the Ashtabulla disaster, at a rate averaging ten thousand rupees a piece. If the responsibility of Railway Companies be thus enforced, they are sure to attach due value to human life.

THEY HAVE a peculiar way of ordering things in Vienna. Sergius Tatischeff, the former *attaché* of the Russian Embassy in Vienna, is reminded in the Official Gazette that he owes a certain jeweller 500 florins, and the well-known book-seller, Gerold, 216 florins, 81 kreuzers. Not a bad way this for recovering money. Bring the force of public opinion upon pugnacious debtors. Here is a hint for the Trades' Association.

THE INHABITANTS of Gogo, in the district of Ahmedabad, in Bombay, in an address to Sir Richard Temple, thus gave vent to their grievances :—

"It is with feelings of deep sorrow and disgust that we view the present condition of our town and trade. For Gogo a prosperous commercial town from time immemorial, to be cast down to the dust its harbour empty, its streets in ruins, its merchants in beggary, and its population dwindling down year by year, and that too, in consequence of the act of the Bombay Government and the marvellous favouring of a foreign rival, is enough to oppress us with heavy and bitter grief. Under other Governments, for example, the Mussulman, Mogul, and Maratha who, it must be allowed were never forgetful of their own best interests, the trade of Gogo was preserved and maintained; and shall it be said that an infinitely wiser and more benign Government that any that has yet ruled in India, shall be less careful of the interests and welfare of its own subjects than the barbarous Powers just mentioned? Shall it be said that the British Government will destroy its own child for the sake of a stranger?"

Sir Richard Temple could not hold out to the petitioners a promise of doing anything to foster local interests at the expense of neighbours; but he pointed out to them how they would benefit by a railway extension that would reach Gogo.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER.

RAJA SIVA PERSAD, C. S. I., Inspector of Schools, 2nd or Agra Circle, has been granted one year's furlough from the 15th of December. It is understood says the *Indian Tribune*, that the Raja retires from the service on the expiry of his furlough. The Raja has been in the black book of certain Government officials since he made his frank speech on the North West Settlement at the Northbrook Memorial Meeting.

IT IS said that the mahajuns and other Hindus of Baroda are acting in concert not to travel by railway, on account of Mahomedans and other lower caste men being placed in the compartments with them. The railway is said to have felt the difference in the passenger traffic; at a late fair held at Dakore, when there were present upwards of a lakh of Hindoos, who had travelled by road, instead of railway. But this prejudice must give way. The Railway is a great leveller.

A MYSORE CORRESPONDENT thinks the cause of the mortality in that province was a want of sympathy with the prejudices of the people. "The better classes of the agricultural population would not touch cooked food, and preferred to die in the streets and in their houses than eat it. It is hoped that, by confining the paupers to enclosed camps, to make the charity given so distasteful, that only the necessitous will avail themselves of it. The object has been fully attained, as all ryots of any respectability will rather die quietly at their own homes than enter a camp and herd with pariahs." The great defect of our rulers is want of imagination. They cannot conceive that the Hindu would rather die than give up his caste. There is a quiet heroism in this, however mistaken, which deserves sympathy.

IT IS rumoured that the War Office, with the direct approval of H. R. H. the Commander-in-Chief, contemplates solving the Gordian knot of army medical disorganisation in the British service, by gazetting a number of qualified foreign medical men, chiefly Germans, to the now, we believe, over a hundred existing vacant commissions in the Department. Why is the army medical service so unpopular with Englishmen?

WE GLADLY transcribe the following from the *Statesman* :

"We desire to make an *amende* to the *Hindoo Patriot* for our comments last week on its silence in Janokey Roy's case. We spoke hastily, we fear, and we apologise to Kristodas Pal for the remarks of which he complains. The difficulties of which he speaks as attending native journalism are real, and we frankly acknowledge their existence in this case, as stated by himself."

It is honest and honorable journalism of this kind, which is calculated to raise the character of the Indian Press. We thank our contemporary for his frankness. We are no admirers of that consistency, which means a persistency in error.

THE SAME JOURNAL says : "Every one, we believe, will be glad to hear that although the project of an Income-tax has been under consideration in the Finance department, as a part of the next Budget, it is likely to be abandoned." But why there should be any additional taxation without exhausting all means of retrenchment?

THE MADRAS MAIL has the following :

"The *Leader* was started some months ago by Mr. James Hutton, and it has been conducted by that gentleman with conspicuous ability; but the metropolis seems a poor field for a weekly review, and Mr. Hutton leaves Calcutta for England in a day or two. He is one of the veterans of the Indian Press. He came out to this country as an Ensign in a Queen's regiment about thirty-five years ago, tumbled into a fine fortune, tumbled out of it, then applied himself to newspapering, and has edited the *Delhi Gazette*, the *Bengal Harkaru*, the *Englishman*, the *Madras Times*, and the *Leader*. His connection with this presidency was brief, and his retreat was not quite glorious; but he gave us a taste of mature editorial qualities, and if he had not fallen foul of the Duke and Mr. Coleman, he would probably have been still among us; but he lost his temper with those personages, and the *Madras Times* and Presidency lost him in consequence."

A BAD type of fever, which the Civil Surgeon calls famine fever, is prevalent in Sholapore, and the mortality is very great. What is this famine-fever? Was vitality so much reduced by the system of famine relief that the sufferers could not withstand the attacks of fever?

THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy held a Levee at Agra, which was attended by some thirty native gentlemen.

MR. E. H. EASTWICK C. B. who visited India last year, intends to bring out a book on the Delhi Assemblage of January last. It is to be called "The Kaisarnamah-i Hind" or "Lay of the Empress"—a poem about the length of "Childe Harold" and will contain a full description of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, held on the 1st of January last, and the titles and genealogy of each Native Prince. Her Majesty has permitted the dedication of the work to herself, and the author aims at truly Oriental magnificence in the printing and illumination of each volume. The poem will be translated by distinguished Native poets. The first volume will be in English and Persian, the second in English and Hindi, and the third in English and Sanskrit. The illustrations and illumination will be by hand. Fifty copies only of this edition are to be issued—the price of each volume being twenty pounds.

A DIRTY PARSI breach of promise of marriage case is being tried by the Bombay High Court. Both parties belong to highly respectable Parsi families. For the sake of public decency the case should have been heard with closed doors.

THE FOLLOWING is Mr. Lynn's account of his balloon ascent at Bombay:

"In two minutes from the time of starting I found myself at an altitude of 3000 feet. I proceeded at this elevation in a course S. E. by S. about six minutes, and determined, if possible, to continue in this direction across to the opposite shore of the harbour; but I was doomed to disappointment. When I had reached about one-third of the distance across the surface of water in the line above given, the gas rapidly expanded and fully distended the flaccid portion of the balloon. This caused her to ascend very rapidly to an altitude of 7,500 feet; but I found that my course was reverted to N. W. and I was recrossing Bombay at considerable speed towards the Arabian Sea. For a few moments I experienced severe cramph in my right hand and a sensation in my neck similar to that which I may be caused by surrounding the neck with a ring of ice, or the coil of a slimy serpent. There was not a moment to be lost to save myself from the Sea: I therefore, discharged a sufficient quantity of gas to descend to an elevation of 5,000 feet. There I found myself exactly balanced with the car in one current and most of the sphere or balloon in another. The balloon at this moment ceased to revolve on its verticle axis, one side—that towards the east—being very cold, and that towards the west much warmer. I now descended to an elevation of 4,000 feet and proceeded in a northerly course; but just by way of a second experiment, I reascended to 5,000 feet and found that the balloon was again making for sea in a south-westerly course exactly at the same altitude as before. As to whether this fact should be considered as a criterion for the existence of the constant westerly current, it is impossible here to determine. The variation of the magnetic needle I found to be 2° east of north at the greatest altitude. I continued the descent, and found that I was proceeding very slowly in the same course as at first. The grappling iron took a firm hold in a stone quary near Dadur. I was almost instantly surrounded by the Natives, and after much persuasion they were induced to take hold of my ropes. The invitations I received from the wealthy Parsi gentlemen of the neighbourhood were very numerous. A grand wedding ceremoney was to take place at the residence of Mr. Framji Sobraji Unwalla, Dadur, and was delighted to find myself a guest with so brilliant a company and so gorgeous scene.

WHILE WE proclaim the misdeeds of Police officers whenever they come to our notice, it is but bare justice to record their acts of merit which they do in the discharge of their duties. An atrocious murder was lately committed in the Bankoora district in a village called Routhkhandu within the jurisdiction of the Bissenpore Police station. The murder had been committed by a woman, who was mistress of a fellow-villager, and the victim was the wife of this man. The woman wanted to get rid of her rival, who was fast approaching puberty. Inviting her to an out-of-the way place she deliberately murdered her and then raised the alarm that she was drowned. When the body was raised and a regular police enquiry commenced the woman had disappeared, this fact strengthened the suspicions of the enquiring officers the murderess was tracked out and brought to justice. She has been sentenced to imprisonment for life. According to our correspondent great credit is due to Sub-Inspector Heralal Mookerjea and the Head-Constable Ramnaryan Pandey of the Jaipore out-post for the successful Police enquiry.

MAHAMMAD YUSUF the chief kazi of Khotan with eight followers passed through Leh on October 22nd *en route* for Mecca. He had left Khotan, with the permission of Niyaz Beg the Governor, on the 23rd of September. The accounts he brings of the state of affairs in Eastern Turkistan are both interesting and valuable, and are believed to be perfectly trustworthy. He says that Hakim Khan Turah had fled, and that Beg Kuli Beg had been firmly established on the throne. Beg Kuli Beg had returned to Kashgar, and the Dadkhwoh of Yarkund had returned to his post in that city. The Beg *Bacha* (the name by which Beg Kuli Beg is commonly known) had given out that he intended to make a progress through Yarkund as far as Khotan early in October. The object of the progress is to overawe or subdue Niyaz Beg of Khotan, who still shews signs of opposing the new Amir or at least of not fully recognising his authority. Troops are collected in considerable numbers between Yarkund and Karghaliff, with a view to marching on Khotan if necessary, and it may be noticed that this information is confirmed from other sources contrary to previous reports. Kazi Mahammad Yusuf says, that Niyaz Beg's officials in Sanju are preventing merchants from going to Yarkund, and are compelling them to proceed Khotan; in particular, the case of Haji Nur Mahammad (the largest merchant up to the present time who has engaged in the trade this year,) who leaving the bulk of his goods at Leh, had gone on to find out the state of affairs. This merchant was compelled to turn aside to Khotan and was not allowed to proceed to Yarkund. It is also reported that the Kirghiz tribes, who had deserted their homes about Sanjee, have begun to return since hearing of the probable movement against Khotan by Beg Kuli Beg.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:

"Several cases of Dak Garry robbery having taken place on the road from Simla to Umballa, in which some of the clerks of the Government Secretariats, on their way down to Calcutta are reported to have been robbed of their luggages &c., it is rumoured that Government intends to compensate the clerks for their losses on the claims being satisfactorily established. To this end the local authorities have been called upon to report the number of such cases already brought to their notice, the amount of loss sustained in each, and what action they have taken in the matter."

FRIDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER.

THE MUTHURA-HATRASS Railway is a decided success. The gross receipts have been Rs. 91,335, and the expenditure Rs. 49,191, which gives a net balance of Rs. 42,144, or 4·03 per cent on a capital of Rs. 10,45,000. It is rarely a Railway gives such quick return, aye, in the first year of its existence. It is now proposed to extend the line to Bhurtpore, so as to form a junction with the Rajpootana State Railway. With a line from Bhurtpore to Hathras, connecting the Rajpootana and the East Indian Railway systems, it is confidently expected that Hathras would become the *entrepot* for the trade between Rohilkhund and Rajpootana.

THE SATYA MITRA of Bombay has the following on Opium prospects: "Latest intelligence from China confirms the report of the Chinese Government having prohibited the sowing of opium in their country. About 50,000 chests was the average annual quantity of China opium of which five thousand chests could hardly be expected this year. This deficiency, coupled with that of the Malwa opium on account of the want of rain up at Indore, will, in all probability, tend to keep up the present high price of opium throughout the year." It is believed by some influential merchants in Bengal and Bombay, that our Government, in order to avoid the levying of any new tax to meet the famine expenditure, will put up to sale, next year, the reserved stock of about 40,000 chests of Bengal opium of former years, as well as about 50,000 chests of the new crop. These 90,000 chests, if sold at the present high price, will amply cover the loss sustained by Government on account of the famine.

THE PIONEER ATTRIBUTES the faults of the Native Press to its youth. It thus concludes a long article on the subject:

"That most of the papers do not wish to be actively disloyal has been amply shown by the spirited way in which they have defended themselves against Mr. Eden's imputations. But they cannot even defend themselves without scurrility and violent language. The moderation and the balance of professional journalism are completely absent. The writing is that of amateurs, and of amateurs who are badly educated and ignorant. They write in the dark as to the true import of events which they take upon themselves to criticize, and they have not acquired the method of political discussion, which is instinctive in Englishmen with whom journalism is a recognised and respectable profession. With the experience we have had in England we may at least hope that these signs of youth and inexperience will not be permanent. As the vernacular Press grows in wealth and influence, it will gradually attract to it intelligence and ability. Political controversy loses much of its acerbity when the disputants are fully informed about the subjects in dispute. They are then in a position to give each other credit for any merits his view may possess, and they fall less into the error of imputing motives. Some persons have doubted whether a free Native Press can ever be possible in the existing political situation of India; but at all events a belief that it ultimately may be, is not incompatible with a conviction that as yet it should not be left to the unguided impulses of its own indiscretion.

But take away the liberty of the Vernacular Press, and it will die of inanition.

THE WEATHER has been peculiar in Calcutta for this season. We are at the end of November, but we have the weather of March. For the last four days the wind has been blowing from the south as if we were in the middle of the spring. The Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal gives the following abstract of rainfall:

The total fall from 1st January to 24th November ...	61·11
The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years.	65·51

MR. LOWE has contributed an article to the *Fortnightly Review* on the "value to the United Kingdom of the Foreign dominions of the Crown." Referring to India he writes: "We spent ten millions in order to rescue from captivity three or four British subjects detained in Abyssinia and we did this mainly to keep up our influence in India, which did not give a man or a rupee for the service." We wonder how the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer could commit such a gross mistake. We published the other day an extract from the Duke of Argyll's letter to the War Office, protesting against the saddling of a part of the cost of the Abyssinian war on India. The pay of Indian soldiers on this expedition was paid out of the Indian revenues.

THE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY notices a species of bark cloth used by the Garos. The bark is known to plainsmen on the Mymensingh side (who purchase it from the Garos) by the name of Opang. In the South-Eastern portion of this District the bark is called "Simpak." In other parts it goes by the name of "Amphak" or "Hamphak," but the name of '*Sapong*' is apparently unknown here. 'The bark is removed from the trees by the Garos in the early part of the cold weather.'"

SATURDAY, 1ST DECEMBER.

WE RE GLAD to learn from a correspondent that Kumar Poornendra Deb Roy of Bansbaria has opened a charitable dispensary in that town for the benefit of the fever-stricken poor of the place. The same correspondent says that a new railway station has been opened between Hooghly and Mogra at Trishbigha and that this boon has been obtained chiefly through his exertions. The Kumar has also subscribed Rs. 400 for metalling the katcha road passing through Bansbaria.

EVEN THE PIONEER, an out-and-out advocate of a compulsory irrigation rate, says:

Sir John Strachey has said that the Government should decide for the people as to the best way of protecting them against famine; and that it is one of the first duties of a civilized Government to take this responsibility upon itself. This imposing generality may be saluted with respect. But it helps us little. The Government of this country has never been slow to assume such responsibilities. But in the matter of canal extension, which will not be directly reproductive, and which has to be paid for by local funds, it is a real question whether, in our anxiety to ward off future famines, we are not outstripping the existing resources of the people. The bankrupt States of the American Union demonstrate the evil of converting too much of the circulating community into a permanent form, however useful may be the public undertakings which have absorbed it.

The question practically is as Lord Salisbury put it the other day whether it were not better for the people to suffer the evils of a drought once in say ten years than to bear a permanent water tax, which it is beyond the means of many to pay.

MESSRS. TOULMIN'S & Co., last commercial circular has the following: "A commercial crisis of the gravest severity has overtaken Calcutta during the past two weeks. The extent of distrust has exceeded anything witnessed since the memorable commercial crisis of 1848. Cash before delivery has been the order of the day. Nearly everybody has been suspected or whispered about; indeed, the panic spread to such an extent that business has been well nigh suspened. The real cause of the panic is attributable to the new system of business called close shaving, which means doing business for next to nothing. It is undoubted that, the terms of business now-a days may be described as a mere bread and butter affair, or in other words—great risks and small remuneration." Close competition is the cause of this close shaving. The telegraph and the Suez Canal have stimulated this competition.

FROM THE letters of news correspondents on the Russian side, says the *Civil and Military Gazette*, the recent successes have been chiefly gained by the Russian Imperial Guards, thus illustrating in a remarkable way the effect of steady discipline and high *esprit-de-corps*. These troops, are seldom, if ever, called upon to go through a campaign, yet we see them now both in Europe and Asia, putting new life into the army, and going through toil and danger with brilliant courage.

HIS HIGHNESS Mustapha Ali Khan, a brother of the ex-King of Oudh, died on the 17th instant and his remains were interred with great honor, at the Mukharba of Umjad Ali Shah the same afternoon. The late prince was advanced in years, and was held in considerable esteem by all classes of his co-religionists for his unostentatious piety and good works.

SIR JOHN B. PHEAR, the new Chief Justice of Ceylon, has taken his seat on the bench The local papers gave him a hearty welcome.

THE PIONEER says: "It is but too true that documentary evidence has for some time been in

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the lands of the Government of India which shows that Russia has positively offered to assist the Amir of Cabul in an invasion of the North-Western Frontier of British India, with the view of recovering possession of the old Afghan frontier as far as the Jhelum." What can this documentary evidence be?

THE BENGALEE points out that the University Entrance Examination in Calcutta is becoming a farce. Our contemporary says:

"Notwithstanding the protests of all thoughtful men, they will do nothing but set questions on grammar and idiom at the University Entrance Examination in their papers on English. A few months ago Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra pointed out that out of 111 questions set at the Entrance Examination in English during recent years, 106 were on grammar. This year out of 18 questions, some of which contain so many as ten parts, 17 were on grammar and idiom and there was only one question in which the examinee had to write a few lines in English."

Here is a specimen of the questions on English:

"Trace with reference to their derivation and history, the meaning of.—*aloof; auspicious; disastrous; rivals. enthral; soldier; admiral; companion; pagan; tantalize; individuality; pervading; antidote; pungent.*"

We are told that in the paper on English, there is not a single question on English literature, not a single passage is extracted for explanation, the candidate is nowhere asked to give the substance of a passage in his own words, nor is he required to translate anything from the vernacular into English. No wonder that the Entrance candidates are so ruthlessly plucked in English, when such fallacious tests are applied.

A CROWDED and influential meeting was held at Jubbulpore on the Civil Service question. The Agent of the Indian Association has proceeded to Bombay, and he may visit Madras.

BABU DWARKANATH BISWAS, zemindar, and Mr. Rajendranath Mitra, Barrister-at-law, have been elected Municipal Commissioners in the room of Mr. Gribble and the late Babu Brindabunchunder Mundul.

WE HAVE received the following letter anent the description of the appearance and costume of the young Maharaja of Kuch Behar at the Sonepore Durbar given in the letter of our Special Correspondent published in our last:

Sir, Your correspondent, Fra Diavolo, is neither kind nor correct in his remarks about certain noblemen, who attended the recent Sonepore Durbar. The young Raja of Cooch Behar, for example, is a well grown lad of 15 *only*, not 18 as asserted, and is admitted by all who know him to be a boy of prepossessing appearance. It is manifestly unfair in a paper so widely read amongst Bengalees as yours is to compare the premier chief of Bengal, a well educated, manly, gentlemanly youth of 15 to a debauched voluptuary such as the late Raja of Krishnagar is reputed to have been—"Cœlum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt." Top boots and breeches may form part of the ordinary wardrobe of a Bengalee, but because a young Bengalee Chief, devoted to Polo and riding, occasionally appears in the costume of "the barbarians," it does not follow that his heart should not be thoroughly loyal to his country and people. Thoughtless remarks such as that under notice and in such a paper will surely go far towards alienating his affections from his countrymen, a result which no one could wish.

C. B

29-11-77.

The whole letter as we read it was written in a bantering spirit and no offence was meant to any body. For our part we have high hopes of the young Maharaja of Kuch Behar, who from what we have heard appears to be an intelligent and promising youth.

BABU H. C. MALLIK of Wellington Square brings to our notice the forcible dispossession by certain Eurasian and other servants of Messrs Smith & Co. of some horses, which his brother bought at their auction, alleging that wrong horses had been brought over. The Babu replied that he would make over the horses after comparing the lot in the book he had signed, but he was not listened to. The horses we are told were forcibly taken away. The Police, as usual, was not to be found. We would advise our correspondent to lodge a formal complaint at the Police.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to an advertizement in another column intimating that the Address to Mr. Schalch is lying at the office of Messrs. Hamilton & Co. for signature.

THE WELL-KNOWN EPIC of Mr. Michael Modhusudun Dutta, Meghnath Kabya, has been dramatized and was performed this evening at the National Theatre before a bumper house. There were some Europeans among the audience. The scenes were good, and some of the performers shewed considerable histrionic talents. The dialogues in blank verse were admirably sustained.

THREE last weekly reports of grain exports from Bengal and Burmah to the Madras Presidency show for week ending the 7th ultimo daily average 876 tons and week ending 14th daily average 1503 tons, and week ending 21st daily average 1720 tons: increase being due to decreased Madras stocks and rise of prices in Madras.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1. Report on the administration of the Ajmere and Mhairwarra districts for 1876-77. 2. Records of the Geological Survey of India. Vol. X Part 4 1877. 3 Messrs Scott & Co's monthly stock and price list of type, paper &c., for December 1877.

WE ARE requested to announce that the session of the Bethune Society for 1877-78 will open at the Theatre of the Medical College on Thursday the 6th instant at 8½ P. M when a lecture will be delivered by the Very Revd. Father E. Lafont S. J. on "the Telephone or the Speaking Telegram" with experiments. We are told that students will be admitted by tickets in order to prevent over-crowding and inconvenience to members and visitors specially invited by the Executive Council of the Society.

WE ARE glad to learn that Kumar Gopendrakrishna of Sobha Bazar has been offered and has accepted the offer of Honorary Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Bethune Society in the room of Babu Grishchunder Mittra deceased. This is an exceptionable selection. Kumar Gopendrakrishna's high social position, literary attainments, and attractive manners will make him an acquisition to the Society.

IN A recent issue we copied from an up-country paper an item of news regarding an affray between a Fakir and some members of the Arya Samaj of Lahore, in which the name of Lala Mulraj was mentioned. A subscriber, Babu Heralal of the Geological Survey, has sent us the following contradiction, which he has received from Lala Mulraj.:

"It is true that a Fakir was present at Lahore in the month of September, who proved cause of a sort of an affray in which three members of the Arya Samaj were beaten; but it is entirely unfounded that I or any Gilchrist scholar was beaten. I was of course present at the spot on the occasion; but I helped to allay the fury of the mob by calling in the help of the police. As for Gilchrist Scholar there was no such person there nor perhaps at Lahore. It is stated besides that the Fakir had come from Jummu. The fact is that he had arrived at Lahore from Umritsar and no one knows whence he had come there."

We gave the news as we saw it in the columns of a contemporary. We are glad that the correction has been made.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London. 23rd November.—A Russian division will remain to garrison Kars, whilst General Nelikoff, with the remainder of the Russian troops, is marching against Erzeroum.

23rd.—The Russian press in discussing the future peace conditions purpose the cession of Turkish fleet and joint Russo-Turkish Command of the passage, of the Dardanelles excluding other nations.

24th.—Count Andrassy, in reply to an enquiry from the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, has informed him that the moment for the mediation of the Powers has not yet arrived. According to the Russian official despatch, the Turkish troops, on the night of the 21st instant, attacked the Russian batteries on Fort Nicholas in the Schipka Pass, but were defeated and compelled to fall back. A Turkish official despatch states that the Russian cavalry near Archanie has been defeated with great loss.

26th.—Suleiman Pacha is advancing with success on Metchka, situated about 10 miles from Rustchuk. The Servian Militia abroad have been ordered to join their respective regiments by the 30th instant, when the proclamation of Servian independence is expected.

27th.—The Russians have captured Etropol, south of Wratza. A Russian official despatch states that the Russians have captured the impregnable position of Provitz, near Orchanie, after forty-eight hours' march through an inaccessible region. Russian loss trifling. It is reported that the Turks have abandoned Orchanie.

28th.—A Russian official despatch has been received, which states that the Turks have experienced a defeat at Metchka, and have been compelled to fall back. Constant skirmishes are taking place between Suleiman Pacha's outposts and those of the Czarewitch. According to the latest news to hand, the Russians apparently intend to re-cross the Balkans. The *Daily Telegraph* confirms the report that the Turks are evacuating Orchanie, but adds that they will hold the Orchanie Pass.

29th.—A despatch has been received from Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, dated Erzeroum the 25th, stating that the Russians still maintained their positions before the city, but that operations were suspended in consequence of severe weather, there being three feet of snow on the ground. Lord Derby, replying to a deputation which waited on him yesterday, said he differed from the prevalent opinion that the Euphrates Valley route was the true route to India. England, he said, had no reason to depart from the neutral attitude she had assumed in the Turco-Russian war. Constantinople was not in imminent danger, nor was the Suez Canal at all menaced. His Lordship then said that the British Navy could not go to Constantinople unless the Porte first sanctioned such a step and that as regards mediation, should occasion offer, England would not lose the opportunity.

30th.—The Russian press advocate the retention of Kars. A report is current that the Russians will accept an armistice after the fall of Plevna, but is semi-officially denied.

1st December—According to a Turkish official despatch, the repulse of Suleiman Pacha's force at Metschka is admitted. Reouf Pacha is organising a camp of 50,000 men at Adrianople. Ahmed Eyoub Pacha has been appointed Commander of the Turkish forces in the Schipka Pass. Ghazi Muktar telegraphs that he is able, with the force at his disposal, to defend Erzeroum. The British Mediterranean Squadron has received orders to winter in Besika Bay.

Paris. 23rd November.—Marshal MacMahon has succeeded in forming a Conservative Ministry, the members of which are unknown men. General Rochebouet is appointed Minister of War and President of the Council of Ministers.

26th.—Marshal MacMahon has resolved to adopt a policy of resistance.

29th.—Marshal MacMahon has had an interview with Jules Grevy, during which he evinced disinclination to conciliate, and said he never contemplated a *coup d'etat*.

30th.—M. Gambetta has demanded of Marshal MacMahon to renounce his right to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. Marshal MacMahon has rejected the demand.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, *Bow Bazar Street.*)

LECTURE by Dr Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Sunday* the *9th Dec.* next, at 3 P. M.

Subject: Electric Induction.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—Annas 8 for a single Lecture; Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR. M D.
Honorary Secretary.

30th Nov. 1877.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1877.

THE RETURN.

BOTH His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor have returned to the capital from their mountain abodes. They arrived on the same day, on Thursday last. No arrangements had been made for a formal reception of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, but the leading officials and Native gentlemen of Calcutta mustered at the Howrah station early in the morning to receive His Honor. The Viceroy arrived in the evening. His Excellency was received at Howrah by the city officials and the Railway Volunteers and at Government House by the Lieutenant Governor, the Members of the Supreme Council, Secretaries to Government, and the *elite* of Calcutta Society.

Hard work awaits both the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor General at Calcutta. Two most important measures we believe now engage the attention of the Government of Bengal. The first is the Bill to facilitate the recovery of arrears of rent. His Honor is under a pledge to the people of Bengal for a law on the subject. In his Resolutions reviewing the reports of Divisional Commissioners His Honor has repeatedly noticed the unsatisfactory state of the law relating to landlord and tenant and promised to remedy it. He has already taken steps to put into shape the suggestions on the subject received from different quarters. He has appointed a Committee, consisting of some experienced officials and native gentlemen, to prepare a draft-bill. As soon as that Bill is matured, it will be formally introduced into the Council. The other measure we refer to is a license tax for Bengal. The object of that measure is to equalize the burden upon all classes of the community for the maintenance of canals and railways. The Public Works Cess falls upon the landed class alone; this it is admitted is not fair or equitable, and the Lieutenant Governor accordingly proposes to levy a license tax upon the commercial classes. We are not in favour of direct taxation in this country. It is more productive of petty annoyance and oppression than revenue. In large commercial towns it may be successful, as for instance it has been in Calcutta, but the wide area of the Mofussil and the absence of public opinion there afford a large scope for petty tyranny by the tax-gatherer. It is estimated that a license tax in the Mofussil will yield from 10 to 12 lacs of rupees. We are not quite sure whether the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to proceed with the Irrigation Cess Bill this session. His visit to the Sone works has satisfied him, we believe, that the voluntary system is working fairly enough, and that it therefore deserves a fair trial. A cadastral survey is going on in Orissa, Midnapore and Behar, and we do not think it is likely that the Irrigation Bill will be taken up until the survey is completed. The other important question is the condition of the peasantry of Behar. His Honor has already announced his views on this momentous question, but it will require long time, enquiry and thought to give it a satisfactory solution. The public look forward with a keen interest to the report of progress on the Indigo question.

Simla did not give rest to His Excellency the Viceroy. The three F's engrossed his attention, *viz.*, Famine, Finance, and Frontier. Early and late these three subjects occupied his thought. During the first few months of the Famine struggle His Excellency trusted to the judgment of the Finance Minister and the Famine Secretary Mr. Hope, but Stracheyism made bad worse. The Government of India was

perpetually in hot water with the Government of Madras, and at a time when the issues before Government were those of life and death to millions, official friction was most undesirable and much to be deprecated. The Government of Madras could no longer brook silence, and the Duke of Buckingham with a courage, which did honor to his heart, appealed to England for help. Lord Lytton then saw that he had confided his councillors too far, and commenced to look about himself. He at once asserted his position, and took the portfolio of the Famine in his own hands. His Lordship organized his own staff, and himself headed the campaign against the Famine. He selected as his personal Secretaries two officers, who had greatly distinguished themselves during the Behar Famine of 1874, and proceeded to the scene of operations. He visited Bombay, Madras and Mysore, and inspired the local Governments with his counsel and energy. The success which has attended his well-directed and benevolent efforts is well known. It is true that some of his measures were of a revolutionary character, but the necessities of the case justified them. The work has now been nearly accomplished. In Bombay the famine account is about to be wound up; in Madras the autocracy is to be soon replaced by the triumvirate of the regular Government and Col. Kennedy to be restored to his own Presidency, though relief operations on a small scale must be carried on till February; in Mysore the administration of the Famine will be succeeded by a revision of the system of general administration. If the humane instincts of Lord Lytton had been brought into play from the beginning we are satisfied that things would have been managed much better and that there would not have been so much misunderstanding between the two Governments and so much mortality among the poor sufferers. But his Lordship trusted to the "experience" of his colleagues, which as events shewed was not after all the safest guide. If his Lordship has been somewhat harshly judged by some of the leading London papers, that has been, we must candidly confess, entirely due to his own reticence and diffidence. We admit that his Lordship was suddenly confronted with a calamity, the like of which had never been seen in Europe, not excepting the Irish Famine, but the genius of a statesman rises with the gravity of national misfortunes. That his Lordship was not unequal to the crisis is evidenced by his subsequent success.

The Famine has as a matter of course greatly complicated the financial situation of the empire. The treasury was by no means flourishing when the crash of the famine came, and the Finance Minister was greatly embarassed in finding ways and means for famine relief. The money already borrowed was swallowed up as fast as it came; the cry was for more and more, and the cash balances were rapidly diminishing. The Government was hard up, and it was misled by the estimates of famine expenditure. In September there was such a drain upon the Treasury, while the demand for prospective expenditure was so great that the Government feared it was on the brink of insolvency. At this juncture the Government of India was told that the expenditure on account of the famine would be at the rate of a half to three quarters of a million per month, and as the receipts were coming in rather slowly the Government thought of a device to raise money, which we must confess has not reflected credit upon the Financial Department. We had hitherto been silent upon this subject, because we thought public criticism of the measure might be embarassing to Government. Happily the crisis has passed away. Originally it was intended to raise about a million and a half by private loans, but before October was out the Government saw that the estimate of famine expenditure had been greatly exaggerated, and that the ordinary revenue would suffice. It did not therefore take more than half a million, the whole of which was raised in Bengal and Northern India *viz.*, 31 lacs in Bengal, and 19 lacs in the N. W. P., and the Punjab. The loans were at once closed. It was a pity that the Financial Department was panic-stricken, but if money was so urgently required we did not see what necessity there was for secrecy. Exchequer bills would have brought in the required amount in no time. The same gentlemen, who so loyally came forward to the help of Government, would have done the same, if exchequer bills had been issued. Secrecy in a matter of this kind gives rise to doubts and insinuations, which cannot but be injurious to Government. The Banks if we are informed aright did not act in the right spirit in this crisis. They had been applied to by Government, but they demanded, we have heard, enormous rates of interest, from 10 to 11 per cent. The application to private parties was thus forced upon the Government, and the success, which it met with, was a good lesson to the Banks. The credit of Government had not gone down so low that it could not raise money without the aid of the Banks, and there was sufficient loyalty in the monied class to aid the Government in time of need regardless of any pecuniary consideration. Some writers have wondered that native capitalists have lent money to Government at 7 per cent. while paying the Banks 10 per cent. but they forget that these have not advanced the money for profit. Their object was simply to render loyal assistance to Government. On political grounds both the Government and the people have good reasons to be satisfied with the move made. It has elicited a signal proof of the loyalty of the people—of their desire to assist the Government in time of need. The bulk of the loans we are glad to learn was raised in Bengal. It now devolves upon the Government to meet the heavy deficit, which has been caused by the famine expenditure. Additional taxation, it is said, is sure to be imposed, and the people we need hardly assure the Government will not grudge to pay, if a clear necessity be made out. But in Finance, as in the Famine, we beseech Lord Lytton to trust to his own judgment. In the name of the millions under his Lordship's sway we demand that retrenchment should precede taxation. Let all reasonable reductions be made first, and if notwithstanding such reductions an equilibrium between income and expenditure cannot be effected, then additional taxes may be imposed, but not until then.

The Frontier is the last F. which occupied the anxious thought of Lord Lytton at Simla. The gist of the Frontier politics, so far as we understand this complex subject, is this: Russia is advancing rapidly in Asia; the Amir of Cabul holds the gate to India; our Government has been friendly to him, and he was known to be friendly to us, but he seemed to be indecisive. Our Government has been annually giving him bribes in the shape of arms, ammunitions, and money, but does not receive a *quid pro quo*. Lord Lytton wishes that the Amir should give this *quid pro quo* in the shape of an offensive and defensive alliance with our Government. To this the Amir wont agree, and his Lordship does not therefore see the good of continuing the subsidy to His Highness. Then His Lordship seems to be of opinion that if we cannot rely upon the Amir we must rely upon ourselves. This motive we believe explains the military occupation of Khelat by our Government. It is difficult to foresee the consequences of this resolution, but it cannot be denied that the policy is both intelligible and intelligent. Although this policy is his Lordship's own, we cannot believe that he has adopted it without the consent and sanction of the Secretary of State. The Amir is naturally dissatisfied with the bold measures of our Government, but if he wishes to be a friend to us, he ought to be a sincere friend. He cannot deny that the moral and material support which he had always received from our Government has been of the greatest service to him, but what is the return he has made?

The last vice-regal exodus will be noted in the annals of Simla for a measure, which is best calculated to put the relations of Government with the public on a most satisfactory footing. Lord Lytton is too enlightened to ignore the force of public opinion even in India, and he has seen that the practice of buying the support of particular journals with crumbs of news and official papers was immoral and undignified. His Lordship has accordingly made arrangements to supply the leading papers of India with reliable news, without in any way fettering the freedom of criticism. His Lordship's object is simply to help the circulation of truth without fear or favour, and if the facts are correctly given, no just ruler need fear criticism. The idea we believe originated with his clever, accomplished, and genial Private Secretary, who has been long enough in the country to be able to feel correctly the pulse of public opinion. Confidence begets confidence; and the confidence which Lord Lytton has reposed in the Press has as might be expected greatly enhanced the confidence of the public in his Lordship. His Lordship has selected an officer as the medium of communication with the Press, who is peculiarly fitted for the task. Himself a *chevalier le plume*, long connected with the Press of England and India, frank, generous, and confiding, he is a trustworthy interpreter between the Government and the public, and the success with which he has managed this rather delicate business for the last six months is the best proof of his ability, aptitude, and discretion. We hope the arrangements will be made permanent and the local Governments will follow the good example of the Government of India.

We heartily welcome back both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant Governor to the capital. We do hope that the measures contemplated by them respectively during the Calcutta Session will increase the confidence which the public repose in them.

THE CESS ACT—*Ultra Vires.*

THE Public Works Cess Act, we contend, is *ultra vires*. The local Legislature has no power to pass any law affecting the authority of Parliament. The Permanent Settlement, as we have repeatedly shewn, was a solemn covenant of the State; it was subsequently embodied in a Regulation. It was originally made by the Governor General in Council, sanctioned by the Court of Directors and the Crown, and subsequently ratified by Parliament. The nature of the covenant is sufficiently explained in the terms of the Proclamation of the Governor General in Council:

"Art I. In the original Regulations for the decennial settlement of the public revenues of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, passed for these provinces respectively on the 18th September 1789, the 25th of November 1789, and the 10th February 1790, it was notified to the proprietors of land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement might be concluded, that the jumma assessed upon bear lands under those Regulations would be continued after the expiration of the ten years, and remain unalterable for ever, provided such continuance should meet with the approbation, of the Honourable Court of Directors for the affairs of the East India Company, and not otherwise.

Art II. The Marquis Cornwallis, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Governor-General in Council, now notifies to all zemindars, independent talookdars, and other actual proprietors of land paying revenue to Government, in the Provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, that he has been empowered by the Honourable Court of Directors for the affairs of the East India Company to declare the jumma, which has been or may be assessed upon their lands under the Regulations above mentioned, fixed for ever.

Art III. The Governor-General in Council accordingly declares to the zemindars, independent talookdars, and other actual proprietors of land with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been concluded under the Regulations above-mentioned, that at the expiration of the term of the settlement no alteration will be made in the assessment which they have respectively engaged to pay, but that they, and their heirs and lawful successors, will be allowed to hold their estates at such assessment for ever.

Art VI. It is well known to the zemindars, independent talookdars, and other actual proprietors of land, as well as to the inhabitants of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa in general, that from the earliest times until the present period the public assessment upon the lands has never been fixed, but that according to established usage and custom, the rulers of these provinces have from time to time demanded an increase of assessment from the proprietors of land; and that, for the purpose of obtaining this increase, not only frequent investigations have been made to ascertain the actual produce of their estates, but that it has been the practice to deprive them of the management of their lands, and either to let them in farm, or to appoint officers on the part of Government to collect the assessment immediately from the ryots. The Honourable Court of Directors, considering these usages and measures to be detrimental to the prosperity of the country, have, with a view to promote the future ease and happiness of the people, authorised the foregoing declarations; and the zemindars, independent talookdars, and other actual proprietors of land with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been or may be concluded, are to consider these orders fixing the amount of the assessment as irrevocable, and not liable to alteration by any person whom the Court of Directors may hereafter appoint to the administration of their affairs in this country.

The Governor-General in Council trusts that the proprietors of land, sensible of the benefits conferred upon them by the public assessment being fixed for ever, will exert themselves in the cultivation of their lands, under the certainty, that they will enjoy exclusively the fruits of their own good management and industry, and that no demand will ever be made upon them, or their heirs, or successors, by the present or any future Government, for an augmentation of the public assessment in consequence of the improvement of their respective estates.

To discharge the revenues at the stipulated periods without delay or evasion, and to conduct themselves with good faith

and moderation towards their dependent talookdars and ryots are duties at all times indispensably required from the proprietors of land, and a strict observance of those duties is now more than ever incumbent upon them, in return for the benefits which they will themselves derive from the orders now issued. The Governor-General in Council therefore expects that the proprietors of land will not only act in this manner themselves towards their dependent talookdars and ryots, but also enjoin the strictest adherence to the same principles in the persons whom they may appoint to collect the rents from them. He further expects that, without deviating from this line of conduct, they will regularly discharge the revenue in all seasons; and he accordingly notifies to them, that in future no claims or applications for suspensions or remissions, on account of drought, inundation, or other calamity of season, will be attended to, but that in the event of any zemindar, independent talookdar, or the other actual proprietor of land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been or may be concluded, or his or her heirs or successors failing in the punctual discharge of the public revenue which has been or may be assessed upon their lands under the above-mentioned Regulations, a sale of the whole of the lands of the defaulter, or such portion of them as may be sufficient to make good the arrear, will positively and invariably take place."

Such was the compact of the Permanent Settlement. It was a contract between the State and the proprietors of land. Its subsequent embodiment in a legislative enactment did not alter its character or terms. This covenant was made with the sanction of Parliament. On referring to the proceedings of the House of Commons for 1792 we find that Mr. Secretary Dundas thus spoke on the subject: "For some time past it had been an object of serious attention to fix the amount of the assessments on the landholders, and he was happy to say, that a general settlement would soon reach India, by which every occupier of land under the company would hold it by as firm and as regular a tenure in point of payment, as any landholder in this country. The effect of this must be to give confidence to the landholder, who knew that he was to pay a certain assessment, and no more, and stability to the land revenue, because there would always be ability to pay while the assessment was moderate, and less temptation to avade payment where there was no fear of extortion. This permanent assessment he should shew to be such, as the occupiers of land easily could afford to pay; and as it had been for a considerable time past an object to keep the assessments as regular as possible, the Government of Bengal had taken some contingent expenses of collection on themselves, which made the excess of seven lacks above the estimate." Mr. Francis said:

The right honourable gentleman had talked of the flourishing state of the revenue of Bengal; he had said, that the ten years settlement of the lands was to be perpetuated; that the lands were fully able to bear the present assessment; that the landholders were perfectly satisfied, that they paid their rentals without difficulty, or ever being distressed, and that there was a certain prospect of increasing revenue and increasing prosperity in the Province of Bengal. Mr. Francis said, that he certainly approved of the principle, said to be now at last adopted, of fixing and perpetuating the property of the lands in the hands of zemindars who were the true owners; he had earnestly recommended this plan himself, so long ago as the year 1776, as well as many others for the better Government of Bengal, by which other persons had profited, and for which he had never received either thanks or credit. *sic vos non vobis.* As to the brilliant description given by the right honourable gentleman of the flourishing and prosperous state of Bengal, he had many doubts. He could not affirm that he had authentic accounts of the contrary, but he constantly saw, in the Bengal Newspapers, advertisements of the sale of lands, seized for want of due payment of the revenue. In short there was scarcely one paper which did not contain one or more advertisements of that kind, that had been published at Calcutta for some time past.

He said, he held in his hand two of these advertisements, which he had that morning selected out of a great number of others. The one announced a sale of seventeen villages, on the 27th December, 1791, and the other a sale of forty-two villages on the 30th of November, 1791. Mr Francis considered these advertisements as undeniable proofs of the reverse of the right honourable gentleman's statement, knowing, as he did, how much a Hindoo will suffer, rather than part with the smallest portion of his landed property. That Bengal, even under the best European Government, must be, from the necessary effect of its political situation, a declining country. That the ruin of distant provinces, so circumstanced, might be accelerated by abuses, or retarded by prudence and honesty in the administration of its government; but sooner or later it must happen. In support of this opinion, founded on his observation and experience, as well as on all the general considerations that belonged to such a subject, he should content himself with appealing to the specific evidence of Lord Cornwallis, who, in a letter to the Court of Directors, dated 2nd August, 1789, had given them the following material information: "I am sorry to say, that agriculture and "internal commerce has, for many years, been gradual- "ly declining, and that at present, excluding the "class of Shroffs and Banians, who reside almost "entirely in great towns, the inhabitants of these "provinces were advancing *hastily* to a general state "of penury and wretchedness, and in this description "I must include almost every zemindar in the "Company's service." In another minute, dated 18th September, 1789, Lord Cornwallis said, "I can safely "assert that one-third of the Company's territory in "Hindoostan is now a jungle inhabited by wild beast." But, if that were true, as it certainly was, it was not very likely that in the districts, bordering on jungles so inhabited there should be any great invitation to population and improvement; and if this was the case only two or three years ago, Mr. Francis desired to be informed what favourable events, what rapid changes, had happened in the interval, which had so much improved the situation of the country and its inhabitants, as to warrant the honourable gentleman in the dazzling picture he had drawn of their happiness and prosperity.

The right honourable gentleman had said, that the assessment of the revenue has not been increased. It might be so, and yet it would not follow that the people could bear it in their present circumstances. He understood that the estimate was made seven years ago, and might be moderate then, but if the country had declined, and was declining, it could not bear the same assessment. The sale of lands was a proof that it could not, and they all knew what bankruptcies and ruin, and stagnation of trade had happened in Calcutta. The crops of grain had failed in the northern Circars, and a famine had threatened; and even in Bengal, they were so apprehensive of a scarcity, that Government had been obliged to prohibit the exportation of grain, (almost the only considerable article of export for which the country received a return) and to order the ships in the river to be unladen.

The motion of Mr. Dundas that "the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House to take into consideration the various papers, (in which was included the despatch on the Permanent Settlement) relative to the State of affairs in India" was agreed to. The Permanent Settlement was thus proclaimed with the sanction of the Court of Directors, the Crown and Parliament.

When the Government of India was transferred from the Company to the Crown in 1858, it was provided (*vide* section 67,. 21 and 22, *Vic, Cap.* 106,) that "all treaties made by the said Company shall be binding on Her Majesty, and all contracts, covenants, liabilities, and engagements of the said Company made, incurred, and entered into before the commencement of this Act may be enforced by and against the Secretary of State in Council in like manner and in the same Courts as they might have been by and against the said Company if this Act had not been passed." If words have any meaning, the covenant of the Permanent is clearly covered by this statute. It was in fact again ratified by Parliament. Now, the question is what are the powers of the Indian Legislative Councils? These powers are derived under 24 and 25, Victoria, Cap 67, and in that statute the following exceptions are made:

"Provided always, that the said Governor General in Council shall not have the Power of making any Laws and Regulations which shall repeal or in any way affect any of the Provisions of this Act:

Or any of the Provisions of the Acts of the Third and Fourth Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Eighty-five, and of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Ninety-five, and of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Seventy-seven, which after the passing of this Act shall remain in force:

Or any Provisions of the Act of the Twenty-first and Twenty-Second Years of Her Majesty, Chapter One hundred and six, entitled *An Act for the better Government of India*; or of the Act of the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Forty-one, to amend the same:

Or any Act enabling the Secretary of State in Council to raise Money in the United Kingdom for the Government of *India*.

Or of the Acts for punishing Mutiny and Desertion in Her Majesty's Army or in Her Majesty's *Indian* Forces respectively; but subject to the Provision contained in the Act of the Third and Fourth Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Eighty-five, Section Seventy-three, respecting the *Indian* Articles of War:

Or any Provisions of any Act passed in this present Session of Parliament, or hereafter to be passed, in anywise affecting Her Majesty's *Indian* Territories, or the Inhabitants thereof.

Or which may affect the Authority of Parliament, or the Constitution and Rights of the *East India* Company, or any Part of the unwritten Laws or Constitution of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, whereon may depend in any Degree the Allegiance of any Person to the Crown of the United Kingdom, or the Sovereignty or Dominion of the Crown over any Part of the said Territories."

The powers of the Presidency Governor's Council are thus described:

"The Governor of each of the said Presidencies in Council shall have Power at Meetings for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations as aforesaid, and, subject to the Provisions herein contained, to make Laws and Regulations for the Peace and good Government of such Presidency, and for that Purpose to repeal and amend any Laws and Regulations made prior to the coming into Operation of this Act by any Authority in *India*, so far as they affect such Presidency: Provided always, that such Governor in Council shall not have the Power of making any Laws or Regulations which shall in any way affect any of the Provisions of this Act, or of any other Act of Parliament in force, or hereafter to be in force, in such Presidency.

The powers of the Lieutenant Governor in Council are thus set forth:

"It shall be lawful for every such Lieutenant Governor in Council thus constituted to make Laws for the Peace and good Government of his respective Division, Province or Territory; and except as otherwise hereinbefore specially provided, all the Provisions in this Act contained respecting the Nomination of additional Members for the Purpose of making Laws and Regulations for the Presidencies of *Fort Saint George* and *Bombay*, and limiting the Power of the Governors in Council of *Fort Saint George* and *Bombay*, for the Purpose of making Laws and Regulations, and respecting the Conduct of Business in the Meetings of such Councils for that Purpose, and respecting the Power of the Governor General to declare or withhold his Assent to Laws or Regulations made by the Governor in Council of *Fort Saint George* and *Bombay*, and respecting the Power of Her Majesty to disallow the same, shall apply to Laws or Regulations to be so made by any such Lieutenant Governor in Council."

Nothing could be more clear than these provisions. The Indian Councils have no power to pass any law to repeal the provisions of statute 21 and 22 Vic, Cap 106, or any enactment "affecting the authority of Parliament." Now, the Permanent Settlement having been ratified by Parliament, the Public Works Cess Act, which contravenes the terms of that Settlement, directly "affects the authority of Parliament," and is therefore as we humbly conceive *ultra vires.* The demand under the Cess Act is necessarily illegal, and it is, therefore, as we think, open to any individual zemindar to contest his liability in a court of law. A suit would be the best test of the strength of the Permanent Settlement. If the Indian Legislature has no power to pass any law affecting the authority of Parliament, the enactment of the Cess Act was beyond its province. This question cannot, however, be decided without a competent court of law. Petitioning the Secretary of State and Parliament is all very good, but we fear Lord Salisbury is committed to the policy of the Indian Government, and as for Parliament the Ministry commands the majority. But a judicial tribunal is not bound by the opinion of the Executive Government, and if a suit would lie against the Government for breach of the covenant committed by it by the enactment of the Cess Act, it may be ultimately carried before the Privy Council. This is a point eminently worthy of the consideration of the zemindars.

MR. EDEN ON DISTRICT AND LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

THE LAST CALCUTTA GAZETTE contains two characteristic Resolutions of Mr. Eden on district and Land Revenue Administration. The first is a Resolution on the annual report of the Burdwan Commissioner. It opens with the following paragraph? "The report, which has been drawn up by the Officiating Commissioner, Mr. A. Smith, is submitted long after date, and is even now incomplete, owing to the omission of all information relating to the district of Hooghly. It is stated that the late Magistrate of Hooghly, Sir W. Herschel, after delaying his report until the eve of his departure on furlough, took away the materials with him, promising to submit it before he actually left the country. This, however, he failed to do, and the most important district in the division has therefore, been ignored in the Commissioner's report. Sir W. Herschel will be called upon by Government to explain his omission." The second paragraph runs as follows: "The duties of mofussil inspection seem to have been properly attended to by every Magistrate in the division, except Mr. Trevor Grant of Howrah. Mr. Grant pleads sickness as his excuse for making

any tour during the year of report, but the Lieutenant Governor cannot accept this as a sufficient apology for the entire neglect of a very important duty. If Mr. Grant was unequal to the proper and efficient performance of his work, he should have taken leave." But with regard to Mr. Trevor Grant the Government has no excuse. Not only did he not go out on tour but he allowed arrears to accumulate in his office. We drew the attention of Government to Mr. Grant's eccentricities and laziness, but what did it do?—it simply transferred him from Howrah to Beerbhoom. Suppose these eccentricities had been committed by a Native Deputy, how would he have been dealt with? Regarding the general condition of the people during the year under report the Lieutenant Governor remarks, "to the cultivators generally the year was one of remarkable prosperity. The full crops, attended with high prices owing to scarcity in Madras, enabled them to pay off most of their debts and to satisfy the demands of their landlords. In Burdwan the grain advances made during the famine of 1874, amounting to Rs. 2,35,000, have all been repaid save Rs. 10,000. Even in the tracts which suffered from inundation the ryots made such profits from mulberry as almost made up for any losses on rice." The prosperity of the people was also evidenced by the falling-off in the emigration returns. His Honor remarks, "the plentiful harvests of the year led to a considerable falling off in the numbers despatched during 1876-77." With regard to emigration both the Magistrates of Bankoora and Midnapore report that the chief abuse in connection with emigration is the enticing away of women. Referring to manufactures the Lieutenant Governor remarks, "the section of the report, dealing with manufactures is defective, owing to the absence of all information from Hooghly, the principal manufacturing district. The Burdwan report, again, is couched in general terms, and does not give sufficiently precise information as to the mining and other industries of that district. The pottery works of Raneegunge are said to be "doing well," and the Bengal Iron Company's works are described as "flourishing." The coal trade of Raneegunge has been "dull." Allusion is made to a discovery of lead and gold ore in Raneegunge, the lead ore being rich and in a thick seam, while the gold is not likely to repay the working. With reference to all these matters much more detailed information should have been given in the annual district report. The reports of the other districts, with the exception perhaps of Midnapore, seem to have been equally meagre." We hope this stirring up will have the desired effect. The Lieutenant Governor makes the following remarks on the state of public feeling and the public press:

"Throughout this division, where there are so many intelligent and educated native gentlemen, the ceremony of the 1st January 1877 evoked a very gratifying display of loyalty. In Midnapore, Mr. Harrison reports that the house tax under the Road Cess Act, the Village Chowkeedaree Act, the project of compulsory payment for irrigation, and some of the provisions of the Embankment Act, are all unpopular and give rise to some discontent. In Howrah the new Municipal Act is said to give dissatisfaction to certain classes. It is hardly possible in any country to make measures involving direct taxation popular; but such a measure as the Village Chowkeedaree Act ought, if judiciously worked and supervised, to lead to no discontent worth noticing.

There are but few newspapers actually published in the division, the educated natives generally subscribing to some one or other of the metropolitan papers. As Mr. Harrison remarks, "the notions imbibed by them are diffused among their neighbours," and "the press of the country is unquestionably hostile in tone" to the Government, mainly (Mr. Harrison thinks) because of the mere fact of its being in form an absolute Government.

We wish Mr. Harrison's remarks had been given *in extenso*. He is right in thinking that the recognition of the influence of public opinion in practical administration would greatly disarm criticism. The working of the Police is favorably reported on. "There is," says His Honor, "a very general complaint of the delays in the civil courts in the disposal of rent suits. The ryots find themselves harassed by the procedure of the court, while the zemindars complain that they cannot recover their rents. This matter is under the consideration of Government." The Road Cess Committees have on the whole worked well. There are six first class and sixteen second class municipalities in the division. The elective system of municipal administration has been tried in Serampore and Burdwan. In the latter town the Commissioners elected were of the same class as those formerly in office. In Serampore "there has been a great deal of friction owing to the existence of two parties in the town." But what is the cause of this "friction"? It is worth enquiring into. Is it "damn legality" spirit, which is said to be in the ascendant at Serampore? The relations between landlord and tenant in the Division are described as amicable, except in the district of Midnapore, where the pressure of the rent-question has made itself generally felt.

The Resolution of Government on the Board's report on the land revenue administration shew how inefficient has been the Government management of khas estates. The Lieutenant Governor remarks: "In the Resolution on last year's report an opinion was expressed that the realizations of revenue in Government estates might reasonably be expected to amount to 90 per cent. of the demand. It appears, however, that this standard was reached in only nine districts, the best results being attained in the Orissa Division. In nine districts, the collections fell below 50 per cent. and in two of these (Noakhally and Mozufferpore) they amounted only to 21 and 20 per cent. respectively of the demand." His Honor continues:

The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accept the explanations given in the report as affording any sufficient excuse for this unsatisfactory result. It is a general plea of district officers that the relization of arrears by the certificate procedure under Act VII (B.C.) of 1868 is a cumbrous and dilatory process, and that successful khas management depends upon the exertions of subordinate agents, who are not always competent or energetic. But Mr. Eden is compelled to remark that the certificate process is at all events a more speedy and effective procedure than any which the law has put into the hands of ordinary proprietors, and that the punctual collection of rents under a system of direct management is one of the surest tests of that administrative ability which may be fairly looked for in a district officer. In all Government estates, whether farmed or held khas, the rents are fixed at moderate amounts, and the ryots are protected from all exactions in excess of the fixed assessment; and under these conditions the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that better results ought to be achieved than were attended in the great majority of districts during the year under review. The successful management in some few districts, in Cuttack and Balasore, in Julpigoree and Darjeeling, shows that the Government is not unreasonable in demanding a much higher general standard. If the Collector of Gya can realize 93·4 per cent. of the demand on Government estates in his district, there is no tangible reason why the percentage in Monghyr should be only 30·2. The contrast between Bogra, with 87·2 per cent. of collections, and the adjacent district of Pubna, with only 38·6 per cent., is not sufficiently explained by the statement quoted in the report that the balance in Pubna "could not be realized for unavoidable reasons." The instance of the Tooshkhalli estate in Backergunge appears to show that the alleged difficulties of direct management can be overcome by firm and judicious administration. This estate has recently been taken under direct charge; it has just been re-settled at an enhanced rental, and the ryots are well known as an excitable and somewhat turbulent body of men. Nevertheless the entire demand of the estate was realized—a result which reflects much credit on the officer in charge of the collections.

The truth is, khas management is a mistake. Suppose the Government had kept the permanently settled estates in its own hands, what would have been the fate of the land revenue? The Government has thus grappled with the question of enhancement of rent in its own estates. The Resolution says: "The unsatisfactory state of the law, as recently interpreted by the courts, regarding the power of a settlement officer to determine rates of rent, is noticed in the report, and has been the subject of separate correspondence. In the Lieutenant Governor's opinion, the powers of a Settlement Officer to enhance rents should be just the same as the powers conferred on a proprietor under the ordinary rent law. In other words, he should enhance except upon grounds upon which the law would allow a landlord to enhance. But rates of rent which have been fixed by a Settlement Officer on these principles, and approved by the superior revenue authorities, should be presumed by the civil court to be correct, until the contrary is shown in a regular suit. The Government of India have lately sanctioned the introduction of a legislative measure embodying these principles." Why should not the same principle be extended to private estates? With regard to the operation of the sale law the Lieutenant Governor justly remarks "that the interests of the revenue require that the sale law should be stringent and comprehensive, but a Collector should use a discretion in refraining from putting this machinery in motion for the recovery of arrears amounting to perhaps a few annas." The Lieutenant Governor thus comments on the relations between the landlord and tenant:

"On the whole, the result of the information which the Lieutenant-Governor has acquired in his visits to various parts of the Lower Provinces is that there has been little open display of animosity during the year between landlord and tenants, and it has not been necessary in any case to have recourse to the special procedure of the Agrarian Disputes Act. In some districts certainly there is every indication that the landlords and tenants who have been disputing for years are now coming to terms and making mutual concessions. The causes of dispute, however, have not been removed, and the real grievance is that the state of the law is such as practically to involve a denial of justice to either party who may attempt to put the law in motion. The zemindar who applies to the courts to obtain an enhancement of rents, or the recovery of arrears due to him—the ryot who complains of excessive demands, or of illegal distraint—finds himself hampered and eventually baffled by the technical and dilatory procedure which regulates the disposal of these classes of suits. So long as this is the case, it is to be apprehended that the differences will smoulder without being extinguished; that both parties will ordinarily remain quiescent, but that the latent animosity will from time to time break out in acts of violence and outrage. Such, in fact, has been the experience of the past year, two aggravated cases of the murder of zemindars by ryots having occurred—one in Furreedpur and the other in Midnapore. This evil can only be effectually remedied by an amendment of the law; and with this object the Lieutenant-Governor is desirous of introducing a measure to facilitate the realization of rents by a more speedy and summary procedure than now exists."

But will no steps be taken to solve the rent problem? So long as the question of enhancement of rent is not settled we fear disputes between the zemindar and ryot will not cease.

THE RAJA OF BISHENPORE.

THE House of Bishenpore represents the oldest family in Bengal. For more than a thousand years it exercised regal sway under a regular succession of 55 Rajas, subject only to a small pescush or tribute to the Great Mogul. In 1715 it was reduced to subjection by Jaffier Khan. On the accession of the British Government the Raja was ranked as a zemindar and the settlement of the land revenue was made with him. Whether it was owing to excessive assessment or to gross mismanagement the revenue fell into arrears, and the Raja's estates were sold and bought in by Government in August 1806; they were sold a second time in November 1806, and purchased by the Maharaja of Burdwan. The family, which once wielded a sceptre, was thus reduced to the greatest straits, and if the British Government had not taken compassion upon it, and settled a pension for its maintenance, it would have literally starved. That pension has now been stopped, and the condition of the family is truly deplorable.

The history of the pension is interesting. The Company's Government as we have stated above sold and bought in the Bishenpore estates in August 1806 in consequence of default of revenue, but it did not keep them in hand. It sold the estates again in November 1806, which were then purchased by the Maharaja of Burdwan. The sale proceeds exceeded the amount due, but the Government instead of making over the amount to the Raja of Bishenpore settled a pension upon the family out of compassion. We give a translation of the orders of the Board contained in a Bengali robocarry of the Collector:

To Ranee Dhujjamoni and Raja Gopal Singha.

Your petition dated 21 August 1809 corresponding with the Bengali year 1216, 7th Bhaddur was forwarded to the Board of Revenue and their reply dated 28th December, 1809, was received on the 9th January 1810. It is therein ordered that for the arrears of revenue up to the year 1806 on account of Bistoopore the property or estate was purchased by the Company at auction sale for Rs. 150,000 on 9th August 1806 and the amount was credited in the account of the Pergunnah. Subsequently on the 12th November of that year the Company advertised the property for sale and sold it, and at this sale the Maharajadhiraj Tej Bahadoor bought it. The claim of the Sircar for arrears was for Rs. 187,918. The difference of the last sale was justly the profit of the Company, but still after crediting the proceeds to the arrear account there was shewn a balance of Rs. 27,084. But the Board after much consideration reported on the 25th November of the same year to the Governor-General in Council that instead of paying the balance in cash a monthly pension might be settled for the maintenance of the family, and the Government sanctioning the proposal of the Board

settled a pension upon them. The Board therfore hereby communicates to you the orders of Government for your information.

Dated 9th January 1810, 27th Pouse 1216 B. E. Signed by Assistant Collector.

The above letter was preceded by a letter from the Collector of Burdwan to the Assistant Collector of Jungle Mehals, dated 12 June 1809. The following is a translation of the document:

Dated 12th June 1809. The Collector of Burdwan writes to the Assistant Collector of the Jungle Mehals, the following for information. Under the orders of Government the Board of Revenue has determined that you shall pay the monthly stipend to the Zemindars of Bishenpore. For this reason I write that you shall pay them their monthly stipend in the following proportions from the date their zemindaries have been transferred by sale.

List of payments to be made to the Zemindars of Bissenpore.

Raja Madhub Singha ...	Rs.	400	per month
Nimy Singha ...	„	100	„
Gour Mohun Shinga ...	„	50	„
Khetter Mohun Singha the 2nd. ...	„	50	„
Futteh Bahadoor Singha and son Anund Singha...	„	50	„
Khetter Mohun Singha ...	„	80	„
Lutchmun Singha ...	„	28	„
Lal Khetter Mohun Singha and Khetter Koomaree...	„	40	„
Soorut Coomaree ...	„	15	„
Soorjun Singha Cowar ...	„	80	„
Sivadun Singha ...	„	40	„
Omrao Singha ...	„	40	„
Shamlal Singha ...	„	20	„
Ranee of Mudden Mohun Singha ...	„	12	„
Joy Singha Baboo ...	„	8	„
		1010	

These two letters establish two facts, firstly, that whether or no the Rajas of Bishenpore had a legal claim to the surplus sale proceeds of their zemindari the Government of the day was graciously pleased, evidently for the permanent benefit of their family, to commute the same into a compassionate pensionary allowance, and secondly, that the pension, though originally sanctioned for Madhu Singh, the then head of the family and other younger members of the family, was continued to his widow Ranee Dhojjamoni and to his son Raja Gopal Singh, father of the present Raja, Madhu Singh having died soon after the grant of the pension. Further, the pensions granted to the younger branch of the family have been continued for three generations. We are told that the grandsons of Khetternohun Singh and the son of Sivadan Singh both referred to in the letter of the Collector of Burdwan to the Assistant Commissioner of Jungle Mehals are still in the receipt of their hereditary pensions. Raja Gopal Sing was blessed with a long life; he died at the age of about 79 years in February last; there was consequently no change during his life-time; his two sons have succeeded him, and their pension has been stopped on the ground that it had not been given in recognition of any right or claim on the part of the Raja, but simply as a charitable donation, and that this allowance has been declared to be personal and not hereditary. We have shewn above that according to the suhnuds the pension could not have been personal. As a further proof of the fact that the pension was intended for the benefit of the family, we may mention that though the amount had sometimes been reduced for reasons of which we are not aware, it suffered no diminution in consequence of the death of Ranee Dhojamoni. In 1845 under a letter from Mr. Cecil Beadon, the then Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Raja Gopal Sing was informed that the Governor General in Council was pleased to "raise the pension assigned for the support of himself and his family to the original sum of Rs. 400 monthly," and from the 9th August 1845 to February 1877, Raja Gopal Sing and his family enjoyed this pension without abatement, though his mother Rani Dhojamoni, who had been named in the original letter granting the pension died in 1847, that is to say about two years after the receipt of Mr. Secretary Cecil Beadon's letter.

It is however observable that the pension had been settled not without consideration. It was certainly a charitable allowance, but the Government had ample reasons to give it. The estates had been sold for arrears of revenue, but it was the excessive demand of the Government, which brought them to the hammer. This was one of the cases illustrating how the exhorbitant assessment of the Permanent Settlement ruined most of the ancient houses in Bengal. Excluding the permanently settled estates the Bishenpore family had extensive Ghatawali lands, which were taken over by Government for facility of management, declaring at the same time the right of the Raja to a quit-rent. This is admitted in the report of Mr. McNeile on the Village Watch dated the 22nd May 1866. But the quit-rent has never been paid. If the family had this income, it would have had some means for subsistence. But at present it is utterly destitute.

The history of this family is a most lamentable incident of the early system of British rule in this country. Here is a princely house, which had wielded the sceptre for more than a thousand years; it exercised great political influence, but on the approach of the English it submitted to their sway. To-day the descendants of this long line of princes are beggars. Of course much of the misfortunes of the family was due to the incompetency and extravagance of its representatives. But if the system, which has since come into vogue, had been in operation in the early days of British rule, this family would not have been dependant on the charity of Government. The Encumbered Estates' Act was then unknown; the Court of Wards was not then in existence; Government management of the affairs of indebted landlords was not then thought of. An enlightened and liberal policy has since made due provision for the protection of ancient houses in the country. Having regard to these facts and circumstances we submit that the Bishenpore family is entitled to the generous consideration of Government. The local officers we believe fully sympathize with the family. The people in that part of the country still look up to the Bishenpore Raja as their liege lord. Would it be too much for Government to continue the paltry pension of Rs. 400 a month to this family? If the people of Bengal could be polled on the question, they would, we do not hesitate to say, to a man vote for it. We hear that the present representatives of the family have petitioned Government for the continuance of the pension, and we sincerely and earnestly hope that their prayer will be granted.

ECONOMY IN MYSORE.

THE British Government holds Mysore in trust. Mysore has been visited with a dire calamity, the like of which was perhaps not known before. The consequence is the Mysore treasury is empty. The Government of India has advanced money to the Mysore Government to meet the demands upon its purse, and as there is not sufficient room for additional taxation in Mysore, it is applying the right remedy there—the scissors. We read that among the most important of the contemplated measures of retrenchment is the abolition of the Commissionerships of Divisions, that is to say the three divisions of which the Province at present consists, and that the whole State is to be comprised only of districts, presided over, as heretofore, by Deputy Commissioners, who are to be subordinate and responsible to the Chief Commissioner. This important change is contemplated not only with a view to the approaching rendition of the Province to its future ruler, but also with a view to retrenchment in the expenditure of the State, on account of the famine through which the country is still struggling. The contemporary, from whom we take the above, says, "that the expenditure of each Division, including the salary of the Commissioner, is Rs. 6,000 a month, which, for the three Divisions, will be Rs. 18,000 or Rs. 2,16 000 per annum, This is no inconsiderable saving to the State, and might be utilised in paying a portion of the interest on the loan which was recently raised by the Government of India to meet the famine expenditure. The measure is certainly far better than endeavouring to effect savings in the minor departments of the State. If the Divisions of the Province are abolished, the question which will need a satisfactory solution is, what arrangement might be made to meet the "vested interests" of the Officers who now hold the three Commissionerships, respectively? We understand that Colonels J. L, Pearse, Hay, and Campbell Commissioners, respectively, of Nundydroog Ashtagram, and Nagar Divisions, will be asked to retire on the extra bonus and pension offered by the Secretary of State, and on which Colonel Renton retired last month. It is also in contemplation, we believe, to, ask those amongst the officers of the Commission below the rank of Divisional Commissioners, who have attained the pensionable age, to retire from the service; so that the early part of next year, will probably, see quite a shuffling of the cards amongst the officers f the Commission, both European and Native."

Now, if economy is to be rigidly enforced in Mysore, why should it not be equally enforced in the British territories? It might be easy enough for our Government to impose taxes upon British subjects, but would it be fair or just? Is it not its duty to satisfy the people that it has done all that it can to reduce expenditure, and that the deficit which may be still left should be met by additional taxation. The people, we may observe, are quite willing to bear the burdens of the State; they know well that if the exchequer is empty they must contribute to it, that it is useless to think of extraneous aid; and it is from this feeling we are opposed to an imperial grant from England. The Government of a vast and civilized country like this cannot be carried on by begging alms from the imperial country. Our legitimate expenses must be met from our national resources. But the unquestioning obedience of the people enhances the obligation of the Government. The millions of India have no voice; they are unrepresented in the local Governments and in the imperial legislature; they look up to the British Government as their Earthly Providence; they have received manifold blessings from it; they enjoy peace, security of person and property, an open field for the products of their industry, a well-organized machinery for the administration of justice, and a freedom of speech the like of which they had not enjoyed under Mahomedan rule. But because the British Government has conferred these blessings upon the people of India, its obligations as the arbiter of the destinies of a fifth of the human race have not ceased. The frankness with which it professes to deal with the people encourages them to lay their grievances with frankness. And their greatest grievance at the present moment is that they should be called upon to pay new taxes without the Government doing its best to retrench expenditure. In previous issues we have endeavoured to shew how retrenchment of expenditure may be effected, and if the Government means to do justice to its subjects, it ought to satisfy them that it has left no stone unturned for carrying out reasonable economy.

FLAX CULTURE IN INDIA.

AS JUTE has within a few years become an important staple in Bengal, flax may one day become an equally valuable product. Spasmodic efforts have been made here and there to grow flax in India, but these efforts have from want of perseverance proved unsuccessful. A very important and comparatively cheap experiment has been commenced by that enterprising Captain of Industry, Mr. Macallister. We have before us a thoroughly practical note, which he has lately written on the subject, and which has been published in the *Gazette of India*. Mr. Macallister says, the common linseed stalk of this country, which is usually thrown aside as useless by cultivators after they have extracted the seeds, although short in fibre in consequence of thin planting and poor soil, can be made available for a fairly good class of fibre, if the stalk can be got out of the producer's hands before exposure to the sun and hot winds has spoilt it. In the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, in America, large quantities of linseed (flax seed) are annually planted with a view to utilize both seed and fibre, and both are utilized to the fullest extent with much profit to the Planter. The quantity of seed put into the ground is abou

treble that in Bengal, consequently they not only get a good fibre, but obtain a better yield in seed. Machines patented by F. A. Smith, Esq., of the Missouri Flax Works, High Point, Monteem Co., Missouri, U. S. A., are used for threshing out the seed. Where labor is high, as in America, these machines are indispensable; here, with the cheap labor of the country, the usual method of threshing rice, *not the bullock tramp, because that spoils the fibre*, but the usual threshing by hand over a log of wood, or a stone, is pronounced to be the best method. The fibre produced from native grown linseed, although much inferior in quality to that grown especially with reference to fibre, is nevertheless a fair substitute for Russian tow for all sorts of coarse goods, and if carefully worked out will we are told fetch in the London market from £25 to £35 per ton according to quality. Good Russian Riga flax is worth in the Calcutta market now about Rs. 550 per ton, or Rs. 10 per Bengal maund. Indian flax can be produced nearly, if not quite, as good as Russian, and much cheaper; so that, says Mr. Macallister, if numerous Indigo Planters are prepared to try a few acres specially grown on prepared lands, and worked out with a view to better quality, as also to utilise their ryots' productions for the coarser quality, we are likely to get a long way on the road to success without much delay, and eventually to enrich the agricultural resources of the country to an important extent. Indigo Planters especially would benefit by adopting flax raising as an auxiliary to Indigo, as there need be no great outlay; they have engines, vats, and buildings; they have generally at their command the raw material, and can grow it for fine qualities; and what is of more advantage than all, the manufacture of this fibre serves at a season when they have little else to do. Mr. Macallister adds, "I have found in experiments carried on at Dinapore during the past season that Indian linseed straw grown by the native cultivators is rich in fibre, but, owing to the mode of growing that fibre, is harsh, and that when planted thickly and grown for fibre only, the fibre is almost equal to Russian. Cultivators who wish to make the most out of their labor would do well to plant double the usual quantity of seed to the acre, gather the stalk when the seed in the bolls is ripe, or the bolls have turned brown, thresh out the seed after two days' sun, and immediately immerse the stalks in water and follow the process above stated. Thus, they will utilize the seed, and get a fibre useful to the mills, both here and in England, for making canvas for ships' sails, tarpaulins, &c., &c., for which there is a large demand. The Rustomjee Twine and Canvas Factory at Ghoosery, near Calcutta, have this season manufactured from imported flax more than 300,000 yards of sail and paulin cloth, for which purpose this fibre would serve admirably." Mr. Macallister gives some valuable directions for flax culture. He says, that early in October in Bengal the land should be ploughed and cross ploughed three or four times, until it is perfectly soft, and pliable; the weeds should then be cleared off, dried, and burnt on the lands; then the usual levelling and harrowing should be done, and the land is ready for the seed. To produce flax in the greatest perfection of quantity and quality of fibre, the land should be rich; therefore, the best plan is to plant only such lands as from their annual inundations are enriched by secretions, or, if they be uplands, such as can be manured, or otherwise enriched. Indigo seety is said to be a good fertilizer for flax; so is the water from the steepings and washings of indigo, and from flax retting or steeping, when it can be distributed over the land, as is generally the case where pumps are used, and when retting is done in indigo vats. Seeds obtained from the North West and Western India for sowings in Bengal we are told will be almost as successful as those obtained from Russia. When planted for seed only the quantity of seeds to the biggah should be about half that planted to produce fibre only—or, say, 10 to 12 seers to the biggah. In the North-West and Bengal from 20 to 22 seers to the biggah is, Mr. Macallister says, about the proper quantity, if planted to produce fibre only. When planted thinly, as is commonly done for seed purposes, the straw becomes scrubby and short; long fibre is much the more valuable. When the seedlings are from two to four inches high weeding should be done, after which, if the lands are reasonably clean, no further trouble need be taken till the stalks are ready to pluck. Just before the seeds are ripe—in fact, the moment the stalks commence to colour, and before they can turn brown, and the bolls or seed receptacles harden—the flax should be pulled out of the ground (not cut), tried up into small bundles, not exceeding 5 inches in diameter, and immediately in fact, (the same day when possible) conveyed to and deposited in the retting pits for fermentation. It is important that no time should be lost between gathering and retting. With a clear atmosphere and sun 24 hours the drying will, it is said be sufficient, but judgment should be used. Care should be taken not to give the flax too much sun, as thereby the fibre is injured. Here is a new field of enterprise for our countrymen—will they go in for it?

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE REQUESTED to announce the following contributions in aid of the Science Association:

Babu Nilmoney Dey ...	...	Rs. 100 0
„ Nobin Chunder Cowar ...	...	50 0

THE LATEST news from the frontier is as follows:

SATURDAY.—Jummoo, the chief stronghold of the Jowakis, taken to-day (Saturday) with trifling loss.

SUNDAY.—Jummu was taken on Saturday and occupied that night, with loss of four wounded, one mortally. Enemy left five killed on ground, and one wounded in our hospital, and these numbers probably indicate 30 or 40 casualties. One of the enemy armed with short snider which had been carried off by a deserter from Fourth Punjab Infantry was cut down by Captain Hawes of that Regiment, and rifle captured. One British and four Native Infantry Regiments were to have reached Fort Mackeson on the 2nd to co-operate with force under General Keys and to make a demonstration against Bori.

WE ARE INFORMED that the work of the Financial Department being likely to be very heavy for the next few months, Mr. Bernard will be appointed Additional Secretary, to help Mr. Chapman: the work of Famine Secretary, now becoming lighter, will be carried on by Mr. Stuart Bayley, in addition to his duties as Personal Assistant to H. E. the Viceroy.

MAHARAJA NORENDRA KRISHNA BAHADUR has gone out of the Vice-regal Council by rotation. The Raja of Nahan (Simur) succeeds him. Maharaja Narendra Krishna was not an ornamental member. He took an intelligent interest in the deliberations of the Council, and whenever occasion required, he did not hesitate to speak out. Although the influence of the native members on the course of Indian legislation is infinitessimal, the Maharaja did his work honourably and well.

WE HAVE received from the Bengal Office the following letter *in re* Janokinath Roy:

Nos. 47-49 *T.*

BANKIPORE, THE 26TH NOVEMBER 1877.

From Horace A. Cockerell, Esq, Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

(1) To Nawab Amir Ali; (2) To Nawab Abdul Ghani, C. S. I.; (3) to Pundit Saroda Churn Turkopunchanun.

Sir,—In continuation of the endorsements from this Office (1 No. 4466, (2) No 4467, (3) No. 4468, dated the 29th October last, forwarding for your information copy of a resolution recorded by the Lieutenant-Governo on the memorial submitted by you and certain other inhabitants of (1) Calcutta (2) Dacca and (3) Bicrampore, praying for the remission of the sentence of three months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000 passed by the High Court upon Janokey Nath Roy, I am directed to inform you, with reference to paragraph 8 of the resolution, that having made a reference to Mr Justic Kennedy, who tried the case, the Lieutenant-Governor finds that the learned Judge sees no grounds for recommending a mitigation of the sentence passed by him upon the prisoner

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant Hoarace A. Cockerell, Offg. Secy. to the Govt, of Bengal.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, it seems, contemplates to restore the office of Inspector General of Jails in Bengal to the Medical Service. The first Inspector General of Jails was Dr. Mouat, and after him Drs. Fancus and Chevers officiated for a time. Sir George Campbell conferred the appointment on a Civilian. Mr. Eden, however, now finds that the two offices of Sanitary Commissioner and Inspector General of Jails may well be amalgamated. The Sanitary Commissioner is one of those supretluties, which English philanthropy has inflicted upon India, and as that office cannot be abolished, he thinks we believe that it may be fitly united with that of Inspector General of Jails. Both the officers have peripetitic duties, and the pair of eyes that look at the jails can be utilized by looking at the surrounding villages. As a preliminary step, we believe, the Lieutenant Governor has appointed Dr. Lethbridge, Sanitary Commissioner, to be Inspector General of Jails, in addition to his present duties. Mr. Beverley has been provided with an Additional Sessions Judgship.

IN 1871 the Government of India initiated the policy of lending money to Municipalities and other public bodies for the construction of works of public utility on the security of rates and taxes. The object was two-fold, 1stly, to encourage local public works, and 2ndly, to render pecuniary assistance to Municipalities and other public bodies without loss to Government. A law was passed, called the Public Works Loan Act of 1871, to enable the Government to give loans to Municipalities, and in 1873 rules were passed to give effect to that law. The Government was not altogether disinterested in this financial operation. If Municipal loans were floated throughout the country, they must be offered at a higher rate of interest than the Government used to pay, and this would have affected Government loans. But this policy we observe is to be now reversed. The Calcutta Municipality has been told to borrow money from the public by issuing its own debentures. The immediate effect of this measure has been a loss to the Municipality, for it cannot hope to raise money from the public at the same rate of interest that it has been paying to Government. Then we fear it will be necessary for the Municipality to pay higher rates hereafter, if it goes on borrowing from the public continuously. It cannot command the same credit, which the Government does. One of the two results must flow from this course, either the Municipality must take money from the public at a loss, and then impose heavy taxation to meet this loss or it must starve improvements. Neither is desirable. Calcutta is peculiarly situated; it is the capital of the empire, but gets no pecuniary assistance from the Government, though lacs of rupees have been lavished upon Simla. It would only be fair that the Government should lend its credit to the Municipality, but the question would arise that if it should lend its credit, why should it not lend the money as well? All things considered, the present policy of Government, we are humbly of opinion, is short-sighted. We do hope that the Government will not persist in it. At the present juncture of the finances there is some excuse for it, but a persistence in it would be worse than a blunder.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta from fever are fearfully increasing. The last return of the Health-officer for the week ending the 24th November gives 195 deaths from fever alone, in the preceding week the number was 166 and two weeks before 141. It is remarkable that there were no deaths from fever among non-Asiatics and mixed races. Cholera we are happy to observe is abating. In the last week the deaths from cholera were 14, in the week before last 15, and two weeks before 26. We notice a gradual increase of the deaths from tetanus, which in the last week were 21. Twenty children were still-born last week and 14 persons died from sheer old age.

WITHIN the last few days we have had a proof of the impolicy of filling up wells indiscriminately. The main pipe in Cornwallis Street is under repairs, and the supply of water to all houses on this road up to Tuntonia has been

stopped. The inhabitants have been put to great inconvenience in consequence of the stoppage. Imagine their condition if all their wells had been filled up. Some have already filled up their wells from a panic, and they are now in a most helpless state.

AMONG the papers circulated by the Calcutta Corporation last week we find the proceedings of the Tank Committee, from which we copy the following:

Mr. O. C. Dutt, drew attention to a Resolution on the subject of the improvement of tanks passed by the Commissioners at their Meeting of the 7th April 1877, and stated that in accordance with that Resolution, intimation should, in the first instance, have been sent to the Commissioners of the Wards in which the tanks complained of were situate, and the report of the Health Officer, with the opinion of the Ward Commissioners in each case, should have been laid before the Committee. He thought that in the absence of any specific or detailed report from the Health Officer and the opinion of the Ward Commissioners, the Committee were not in a position to pass any definite opinion. It would have been satisfactory in his opinion, if the Health Officer had given an analysis of the water of the tanks and an account of their general condition.—that is to say, whether they were in the midst of large *bustees*, and what use the inhabitants around them made of the water—and also stated in what way the cases of Cholera reported were traceable to the tanks. Under the circumstances, he thought it necessary that the Committee and the Ward Commissioners should, in Company with the Health Officer, inspect the tanks, not losing a moment's time in making the inspection if the matter was urgent.

Baboo Kally Nath Mitter remarked that as regards the tank at No. 44, Mjeedbaree Street, he had ascertained that no deaths from cholera had occurred in the neighbourhood within the last six months.

After some discussion, the following Resolution was put, on the motion of Mr. O. C. Dutt seconded by Babu Nobin Chunder Burral, and carried.

That in the absence of any detailed report from the Health Officer upon the tanks condemned, any analysis of the water or any information as to whether the cases of Cholera reported were due to the use of the water for drinking or other purposes, and of the opinion of the Ward Commissioners, the Committee are unable to sanction the immediate de-watering and filling up of the tanks as requested by the Health Officer but that the matter is considered urgent, the Committee do inspect the several tanks tomorrow morning at 7 A. M., in company with the Health Officer."

Pursuant to the above Resolution the Committee inspected the tanks. We give below their proceedings:

"The Committee inspected the tanks at No. 7 Sukea's Street Bye-lane, being one of the tanks named by the Health Officer in his Memo, No. 1258, dated 1st November 1877, as requiring to be de-watered and filled up owing to an outbreak of Cholera in the several localities attributed to the use of the water in those tanks. They found the tank in good condition as regards the water, the sides only requiring cleaning and being kept in a clean states.

On the motion of Babu Rajendro Nath Mitter seconded by Babu Kally Nath Mitter, it was—

Resolved.—That the de-watering of the tank, which has already commenced, be stopped at once. The Committee regretted the absence of Dr Payne, who was requested to attend at the Meeting of the Committee. The Committee remark that the de-watering of this tank has commenced without intimation to the Commissioners of the ward and without the sanction of the Tank Committee.

The Committee also inspected premises No. 88, Amherst Street, but found no tank there as stated in the notice."

So a tank had been reported against by the Health-Department, which had no existence! So much for the care, with which inspection is done!

THE GOVERNMENT Resolution on the report of the Suburban Municipality thus concludes:

Of the non-official Commissioners, Rai Jádub Chunder Ghose, Bahadoor, Syud Gholam Ali, Baboos Jagudanund Mookerjee and Umbica Churn Roy, and Mr. James Blackburn were most regular in their attendance at the deliberations of the Municipality.

But why is Babu Judulal Mullick's name omitted? This gentleman devotes considerable portion of his time to municipal work, but perhaps he is not in favour, as he is not in the habit of saying ditto to the executive. We do not think it is right to pick out the names of particular Commissioners for good attendance and so forth as if they were so many schoolboys. It has a demoralizing tendency.

WHEN the Bengalis wish to impress forcibly upon a hearer any thing as grossly absurd or impossible, they are wont to say, you might as well expect two corns from a single paddy. We have received a letter which disproves this saying—there may be two or three corns in a paddy. A correspondent from Khamargachee in the Hooghly district has favoured us with the following with some specimens of the paddy he refers to:

SIR,—I send enclosed in a packet some paddy. The wonder is, some contain two some three corns. In our country there is a saying in illustration of any thing absurd or impossible "two corns in a single paddy." I shall be obliged by your publishing the fact after examining the paddy enclosed. If any of your subscribers want any occular proof of the assertion I can send him some paddy on his sending an anna stamp. If any of them want to cultivate this paddy, a few more stamps will enable me to supply a larger quantity with instructions. We have for the last four or five years succeeded in securing comparatively a large quantity of corn by the cultivation of this species of paddy.

JOY NARAIN BANERJEE,
Secretary to the Desh Hitoishiny a Sbha
of Khamargachee via Mugra Post Office.

WE ARE sorry to learn that the prosecution for the murder of Babu Chundernath Nag, zemindar, Midnapore, has broken down in the High Court, it being difficult to identify the murderers. Mr. Justice Markby made scathing comments on the conduct of the Police. But we read in the Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the report of the Burdwan Division that the Police of Midnapore as of the other districts of the Division are favorably reported on. Thanks to the Police the murderers of the two unfortunate zemindars of Furreedpore and Midnapore are still undetected.

WE HAVE before us a full report of Lord Northbrook's speech on the second reading of the East India Loan Bill in the House of Lords extracted from Hansard's Parliamentary Debates. In that speech his Lordship made the following graceful mention of three departed great men of India:

"He would only express his sorrow at the loss which the British Government had sustained by the recent death of three eminent men. Sir Jung Bahadur, the *de facto* ruler of Nepal, a loyal ally of the Queen who rendered essential services during the Mutiny; Maharaja Romanath Tajore, the highly respected leader of Hindoo society in Calcutta, who was always ready to give his valuable advice and assistance to the Government; and Sir Jametsetjee Jeejeebhoy, who filled a somewhat similar position in Bombay. Both these Native gentlemen he (Lord Northbrook) was proud to reckon among his personal friends."

Such kind words from the ex-Viceroy of India cannot fail to be duly appreciated by our countrymen.

IN THE same speech Lord Northbrook made the following remarks on the Home Military charges of India:

"The Home Charges of Her Majesty's Regiments serving in India" had increased from £500,000 in 1874 to £660,000 in 1876, and Sir John Strachey could only say that this was "the result of much negotiation with the War Office at home, and does not seem susceptible of definite explanation in India." Their Lordships might remember that in 1872 the Duke of Argyll protested strongly against the amount of these charges upon India revenues. There had subsequently been a Parliamentary inquiry, in the course of which the noble Marquess opposite (the Marquess of Salisbury) gave evidence to the effect that it required constant vigilance to prevent other Departments in the State encroaching upon the rights of the Indian Exchequer. Sir John Strachey appeared to be greatly impressed with the tendency of these charges to increase, for he used the following remarkable words:—

"That the Indian revenues are liable to have great charges thrown upon them without the Government of India being consulted, and almost without any power of remonstrance, is a fact the gravity of which can hardly be exaggerated."

He (Lord Northbrook) commended this subject to the particular attention of the Secretary of State. He wished also to ask for some explanation of the incidence of the cost of the recent operations in the Straits Settlements upon the British and Indian revenues respectively. A year or two ago Indian Forces were employed at Perak, and he believed that all the ordinary expenses of the troops so engaged were borne by the Government of India. In the 55th section of the Government of India Act there was the following important statutory provision with regard to such charges:—

"Except for preventing or repelling actual invasion of Her Majesty's Indian possessions, or under other sudden or urgent necessity, the revenues of India shall not, without the consent of both Houses of Parliment, be applicable to defray the expenses of any military operations carried on beyond the external frontiers of such possessions by Her Majesty's forces charged upon such revenues."

The Straits Settlements were formerly part of British India, but by the 29 & 30 *Vict.* c. 115, they were separated from it, and in the words of the enactment, ceased to be part of India "for the purpose and within the meaning" of the Government of India Act. It seemed, therefore, that the consent of their Lordships' House and of the other House of Parliment was necessary before the revenues of India could lawfully be used to defray the cost of the operations at Perak. In the case of the Abyssinian War, an Address to the Crown was moved in order to comply with the requirements of the law under similar circumstances but no such Address had been moved to meet the case of these operations. True, the charge in question was not very large, but the principle involved was one of the greatest importance.

India is thus repeatedly sacrificed to the exigencies of the English exchequer. It is time that our countrymen should move Parliament on the subject.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Krishnaghur dated the 30th ultimo:

Krishnaghur is quite in uproar to-day, owing to a very sensational case. It originated thus. Two students of the local college, by name, Bidhoo Bhushun Sanyal, and Mohim Chandra Biswas, belonging to the 2nd class of the school Department, offered a bribe of 2 rupeas to a servant of their examiner, Baboo Ombica Churn Sen, with a view to put in new copies of their answers in the place of old ones, within the time of their examination, with the promise, as alleged, of paying him more. The servant, instead of yielding to this temptation, brought it to the notice of his master, who in turn informed Mr. Rowe, the Principal, of what had happened. Thereupon, Mr. Rowe sent for the police, had the boys arrested in their house and sent them to the court of the Assistant Magistrate Mr. Taylor, for trial. Although every attempt was made to have the boys released on bail, they were sent to hajut yesterday, and the juvenile culprits had to pass the night there. To-day, they have been sentenced to imprisonment for 7 days without labour, under section 380 and 161 of the I. P. C.

THE WEEKLY FAMINE REPORTS from Bombay, Madras, and Mysore are re-assuring. The Bombay Government reports:

The weather has now become fine everywhere, and prospects are thereby very much improved in most of the districts. More rain is still desired in Nasik and Ahmednagar for the rabi crops, but the fine weather has been favourable for the kharif harvest.

The kharif crops are now being harvested almost everywhere. They have not turned out so well as was expected in Sholapur, and have been a good deal damaged also in Satara and Kaladgi. The harvest had not begun in Belgaum at the date of the report. The sowing of rabi proceeds rapidly, and is approaching completion in some districts. Fever is prevalent in Kaladgi and parts of Dharwar.

The general situation still continues to improve. The condition of the people is becoming more and more satisfactory. Prices of food-grains are falling considerably in the Southern Mahratta Districts. People are leaving the relief houses of their own accord. The weather has now become fair in Kaladgi, but, owing to the late excessive rain, there is unfortunately a good deal of sickness in that district.

The report of the Madras Government has not been received, but we give the following extract from the report of the Madras Famine Relief Committee dated the 24th ultimo:

"With the exception of two Districts—Ganjam and Vizagapatam where, it is alleged, the North-East Monsoon has failed—the reports from all the distressed parts of the Presidency are encouraging. Much rain has fallen, more indeed than was wanted for the crops and great damage was feared in addition to the harm which actually occurred, but the weather has since improved, and is now most seasonable. But, whilst there is good hope for the early future, there is still great distress. This will appear from a letter written by the Revd. Dr. Strachan, one of the Delegates, to be quoted immediately: meanwhile, the following passage from a letter subsequently received may be cited. He says, I visited the Relief Camp [at Palmanair] this morning (9th), and saw a great many cases of severe starvation. A large number were in Hospital; I went carefully through the cases, and came to the conclusion that whatever care may be shown, and however generous the diet may be, at least three-fourths of those I saw have already passed the boundary of hope, and that they *must* die whatever help may be afforded. The Famine is still a stern reality, and is claiming day by day its victims."

The Government of Mysore thus reports for the week ending the 17th ultimo:

The province during the past week has escaped a great danger. Had the same abnormally heavy rainfall that Madras experienced been extended to Mysore, it would have done irreparable damage to the crops and tanks. Speaking generally the prospects are good the famine is in hand; the present arrangements for dealing with it are sufficient and complete: and the efforts of all officers are rather directed to the working up of those arrangements to the highest degree of efficiency, than to extending or opening them in any new direction.

It will be seen from the above that there is still ample room for work for the Famine Relief Committees in Madras and Mysore.

THE MADRAS COMMITTEE state that "the subject of maintenance of orphans is occupying a good deal of attention in Sub-Committees and by those who have taken charge of children. Enquiry is frequently made of the Executive Committee as to endowments, but at the present stage of affairs, and until the will of Government is known regarding the measure of assistance which may be given by the State, the Executive confines its support to maintenance grants. These are calculated at the rate of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ per per child per month, and two months' support at a time is given." The Committee ought to decide the question of the education of the orphans. We hope their education will be of a practical character.

IN REVIEWING the report of the Burdwan Commissioner the Lieutenant Governor remarks: "The public health of the division was on the whole good. The epidemic fever of Burdwan has, the Commissioner notes, entirely disappeared; and though there were here and there during the rains the usual outbreaks of malarious fever, it nowhere assumed an epidemic type." The "usual outbreaks of malarious fever" do not occur during the rains, but after the rains. As for the disappearance of the epidemic fever

the accounts, which we continue to receive, do not confirm the official statement.

WE GLEAN the following statistics of newspapers and periodicals of India from a report furnished by the Post Office and published in last Saturday's *Gazette of India*. We wish the authorities of the Post Office had given the periods of publication and the languages in which the papers are written. These particulars would have made the information complete and satisfactory.

In Bengal there are four daily newspapers in English and two in the vernacular; 16 English and 34 vernacular weekly papers; 18 English and 20 vernacular monthly periodicals. There is only one bi-monthly journal and that is in the vernacular. Besides these there are two weekly Hindi and three Urya newspapers.

In Madras the number of daily English newspapers is 4, weekly 21, and monthly 8; there are only 8 vernacular newspapers in the Madras Presidency. In Bombay the number of daily English newspapers is 2, weekly 13, monthly 4; and others weekly and monthly are in Portugues and French. There are besides 92 vernacular journals and 20 diglots in English and vernacular.

In the North-Western Provinces there are two English daily papers, 5 weekly and 2 monthly periodicals. Of the vernacular journals the number is 58 and of diglots—that is English and vernacular, five.

In the Punjab the number of daily English papers is one, weekly 3, monthly one, and 44 papers are in the vernacular. In Oudh there is one English newspaper published tri-weekly, and there are 2 weekly and 2 monthly periodicals. The number of vernacular papers is 16 and diglots 2.

In the Central Provinces there are one weekly and one monthly English papers, 5 vernacular and one diglot.

In Sind there are three English weekly papers, three vernacular and one diglot.

In British Burma there are three English daily and four weekly papers, 5 vernacular and one diglot.

In Rajputana there is only one English newspaper and 5 vernacular. In Assam there is one diglot and 4 vernacular newspapers.

We have excluded from the above figures official *Gazettes*, advertisers, prices current and books published in periodical parts.

TWO FULLER cases were disposed of last week, one at Alipore and the other at Calcutta. The Sealdah case was tried at the Alipore Court, and the prisoner we hear has been sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment. No report has been published of this trial. The other case, which we would call the Dibrugur case, was tried at the High Court, before a special jury. There were four counts against the prisoner, Mr. W. S. MacGregor; the prisoner was acquitted on the first three counts, and convicted on the fourth, which was causing hurt, and has been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The evidence of the native witnesses was in corroboration of all the counts, but the testimony of the Civil Surgeon of Dibrugur, who held the *post mortem* examination, did not support it. We reproduce from the *Englishman* the pith of the doctor's evidence:

"I remember examining a dead body on the 17th June last. I found the body very badly nourished. I found the stomach healthy, but empty with the exception of a small quantity of fluid. The stomach was partially collapsed. I saw four marks on the back of the shoulder. The first was below the root of the neck; it extended across the shoulder blades. The second was similar to the other one, but was lower down about two inches. This was interrupted by the hollow of the back as was also the preceding one. I saw a third mark lower down on the left side. The fourth was very similar to the third and on the same side of the body, but lower down just above the kidneys. The marks were very perceptible and the skin was discolored. The two lower marks were also cane marks. The marks might have also been caused by whip. I saw some marks on the right cheek and also what a appeared to be a mark on the left cheek. The marks appeared to have been scratches. There were three on the right cheek, and one of them from its breadth looked like the mark of a cane: but I don't think it was; I felt the cheek and there was no injury to the bone. The marks on the right cheek could not have been caused by blows from the fist or foot. I don't recollect any other marks. There were no marks on scalp. There was one on the left side of the abdomen just below the ribs. It appeared to be the result of a stroke with the cane. It might have been caused by a whip. The mark was about two inches long, rather less than than half an inch wide. It did not extend across the body. I observed no other marks on the abdomen. I observed some on the right leg, one on the knee. I don't remember the precise situation of the others. They were such as might have been caused by walking through a jungle. I cannot recollect any other marks. I examined the spleen. It appeared to be slightly enlarged. The right kidney was somewhat congested, but the left was healthy. I examined the ribs; they were all injured. I found all the organs in good condition, except the large and small intestines. The external marks, which I observed on the body, were not, in my opinion, sufficient to cause the death of the deceased. In my opinion the man died from debility, which was aggravated by diarrhœa. The beating might have accelerated the death of a man who, like the deceased, was suffering as I have described. I could not say how long the man had suffered from diarhœa. It was possible that at the time of the beating the man received a nervous shock sufficient to accelerate death, considering how debilitated he was."

It is not clear from the newspaper report how many hours had elapsed between the death of the unfortunate cooly and the *post mortem* examination, and whether the state of the corpse admitted of a satisfactory examination. Be that as it might, the impression which the Civil Surgeon's evidence has left on our minds is that the death of the poor man was accelerated by the severe beating he had received, but the Jury apparently took a different view and convicted the prisoner of causing simple hurt. What was the true extent of MacGregor's guilt He who seeth all hearts alone knows, but humanly speaking is there much room for doubt from the evidence tendered that the death of the cooly was accelerated by the treatment received by him, and if this view be correct, may it not be fairly asked whether the prisoner has been visited with the merited punishment? More we will not say, for any adverse comments are sure to be attributed to race-feeling. One thing we may, however, safely say. Happily MacGregors are now rare in tea plantations. The present planters as a body are very much different from those who first worked the gardens in Assam. They have seen from experience that coolies are as much amenable to kind words as themselves, and that it is much more profitable to win them over by a generous and conciliatory treatment than by a smart plying of the whip or the stick. It is this change in the treatment of the coolies, which has contributed so much to the success of the tea enterprise.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Shomeprokash* alluding to the prevalence of fever in the mofussil and the unusual mortality caused by it observes that the British Government is doing much for the improvement of the country and the condition of the people. Roads, embankments, bridges and railways are springing up in abundance, justice is also brought to the doors of the people by the appointment of different grades of Judges, Magistrates and Police Officers, but if people die in myriads from the effects of diseases uncared-for who will enjoy the benefits?

Speaking on the famine in Southern India and the contributions received from England, the *Sahachar* says, the calamity of the famine has evoked from the English people their hear-felt sympathy for their suffering fellow subjects in India. Their overflowing charity and large heartedness have filled the people of this country and with the profoundest gratitude. There is visible restlessness amongst all classes from the humblest laboring man to the Queen herself and all have most liberally contributed their mite. This sympathy and active benevolence have in a great measure dispelled the illusion under which we labored that the English people were indifferent to our concerns. They have shewn that when the hour of need arrives the English people know how to do their duty. The telegraphic news from Madras gave as it were an electric shock to the people who then for the time abandoned all thought of the Russo-Turkish war which had engrossed their attention.

A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* writing from the Moheshrekha Sub-Division regrets that continued neglect is ruining the people of the villages lying on the banks of the Damuda from its mouth to Ooloobaria. The absence of embankments exposes the cultivable lands to the accretion of sands by flood during the rains and their deterioration by salt water in the dry months.

Referring to the Stamp Bill and the mover's explanation of objects and reasons, the *Probhakar* says that the remedy proposed is worse than the disease. Famines are no doubt great calamities, but the rates at which the stamp tax is proposed to be raised will inflict incredible hardships. Famines are of temporary duration, but this tax if at all raised will tell for years upon the country, and suppose there be another famine will they reduce the tax?

The *Moorshidabad Patrika* deprecates the removal of the collector's and magistrate's offices and courts from their present quarters to the barracks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P
Director of State Railways N. E. System Darjeeling	13	4	0
H. L. Harrison Esq., Midnapore	13	4	0
Baroda State Library	6	10	0
T. Anund Row Esq., Chickmagaleor	6	8	6
Bhigunge Reading Club, Dinagepore	3	6	0
Rungpore Public Library	13	4	0
P. C. Sen, Proprietor Legal Companion, Serampore	2	0	0
Babu Rossiklal Bose, Serampore	6	10	0
,, Peary Mohun Bose, Arrah	5	0	0
,, Sreenath Chuckerbutty, Julpigori	13	4	0
,, Bany Madub Chuckerbutty, Fyzabad	4	4	0
,, Kaminy Coomar Ghose, Dewali Collector's Office	2	8	0
,, Kanty Chunder Banerjee, Ghiror	10	0	0
,, Raghoonath Sahoy, Arrah	6	8	0
,, Rosomoy Dutt, Synthia	13	4	0
,, Jadub Chunder Banerjee, Mashidah	5	0	0
,, Radharamon Roy, Suraha	14	0	0
,, Tarra Chand Mookerjee, Allahabad	1	0	0
,, Mohim Chundra Chatterjee, Dadpore	5	0	0
,, Wooma Churn Mookerjee, Orissa	6	10	0
,, Prosunno Coomar Das Dacca	10	0	0
,, Makhonlal Ghose, Hazara Dhulla Soome	13	4	0
,, Mothoora Nath Sen, Rajmehal	5	4	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*November* 28, 1877.

GENERAL.—Mr. Phillip Nolan, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is posted to the district of Dinagepore. Mr. Nolan is also to act in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Baboo Surendra Nath Pal Chowdry, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, obtained leave for fifteen days, with effect from the 27th October, 1877.

Mr. C. H. Vowell, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, obtained subsidiary leave from that date to the 13 idem.

The leave of absence for two months, granted to Mr. H. F. J. Kean, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Chumparun is commuted to special leave for two months. He has obtained leave for six days in extension of the above.

Mr. H Savage obtained four days leave, with effect from the 6th January 1878 to enable him to appear at the High Proficiency Examination.

In supersession of the orders of the 16th instant, Mr. C. H. Vowell, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the Sudder Station of Muzufferpore. He will act as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, First Grade.

Mr. J. Twidie, Officiating Additional Judge, Rajshahye Division, obtained leave from the 15th instant to the 31st December 1877.

Mr. J. R. Hallett, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Burdwan, to act as Additional Judge and Additional Sessions Judge, Rajshahye Division.

Mr. J. Nugent, to act until further orders in the Second Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. H. L. Oliphant, Judicial Commissioner Chotanagpore, obtained furlough for twenty months, from the 24th January 1878 with a subsidiary leave for eighteen days.

Mr. R. M. Towers, Officiating District Judge, Dacca, to act as Judicial Commissioner of Chotanagpore.

Mr. T. A. Counsell Officiating Head Assistant, Judicial Department of the Bengal Secretariat, to act as Registrar of the Judicial side of the Secretariat.

Babu Chunilal Gupta, to act as Head Assistant, Political Department, Bengal Secretariat.

Babu Umachuen Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, transferred to Dinagepur.

Mr E S. Godfrey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Dinagepur, transferred to the Sudder Station of Rajshahye.

Mr. E. G. Glazier, C.S., obtained subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days from that date.

Babu Mohendra Nath Gupta, Deputy Collector, Chittagong obtained leave for two months.

Moulvi Abdool Waheb, Sub-Deputy Collector to act as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on the Noabad Settlement work, Chittagong.

The services of Mr. J. O. Kinealy, Additional Judge, 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly are placed at the disposal of the Government of India, Home Department.

Mr. H Beverley Officiating Inspector General of Jails, to act as Additional Judge and Additional Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly districts.

Babu Tariny Persad Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mohisrakha Division, Howrah, obtained leave for two months.

Babu Kader Nath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave to have charge of the Mohisrakha Division Howrah.

Mr. Duncan John Alfred Campbell, to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Presidency Division and is posted to the Sudder Station of the Nuddea district.

POLICE.—Mr. W. Campbell, District Superintendent of Police, Julpigoree, having resumed his charge the unexpired portions of his leave is cancelled.

Mr. G. M. M. Ridsdale, District Superintendent of Police Tipperah obtained furlough for six months.

Mr. W. R. Green, Assistant Superintendent of Police Cuttuck, to act as District Superintendent of Police Tipperah.

JAILS.—Dr. A. S. Lethbridge, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner, to act as Inspector General of Jails, Bengal, in addition to his present duties.

MEDICAL.—Assistant Surgeon Premnber Nath Mitter, Charitable Dispensary, Behar, obtained leave for three months.

Assistant Surgeon, Bata Krishna Dutt, a Supernumerar at the Precidency, to have charge of the Charitable Dispensary at Behar.

Assistant Surgeon Ruttykant Ghose, Jessore Charitable Dispensary, obtained leave for three months.

Third Grade Assistant Surgeon Banomally Pal a Supernumerary at the Presidency, to have charge of the Jessore Charitable Dispensary.

EMIGRATION.—The Services of Richard Beadon, Officiating Protector of Emigrants and Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, are replaced at the Government of India, Military Department.

JUDICIAL.—Baboo Joygopal Bose, Munsiff of Julpigoree, obtained two month's leave of absence in extension of the Dusserah vacation. The whole period of his absence will be treated as leave under medical certificate.

Babu Nilmadhub Banerjee, B.L., Munsiff of Raghoonathpore Manbhoom, obtained fifteen days' privigege leave in continuation of the Dusserah vacation.

Babu Shyam Chand Roy, B.L., Munsiff of Jamalpore, Mymensingh, obtained privilege leave for a month.

C. E. Lewis, Munsiff of Purulia, Manbhoom, obtained privilege leave of absence for a month and fourteen days.

P.W.D.—Babu Rakhaldas Chatterjee, Assistant Engineer, Third Grade, rejoined the Dacca Division, on the 23rd November 1877 before noon.

Babu Chunder Mohun Chuckerbutty Probationary Overseer Third Grade, rejoined the Dacca Division, on the 31st ultimo, before noon.

Babu Behary Lal Banerjee, Overseer, First Grade, Dinagepur Division, obtained privilege leave for three months with effect for the 13th October 1877.

Advertisements.

THE UTTARPARA AND BALI BRIDGE NOTICE.

The bridge will be closed from the 1st December for Traffic and Passengers for two months or until further notice.

By order of the Chairman,
BEJOYKISSEN MOOKERJEA,
Vice-Chairman.

Uttarpara Municipal Commissioners' Office, The 1st December, 1877.

Notice.

Owners, Holders, Agents, and Occupiers are again requested to pay into this Treasury their ground rents for the year 1877-78, and receive receipted bills.

CALCUTTA COLLECTORATE,
No. 5, Church Lane,
The 28th November, 1877.

Notice.

Subscribers to the Schalch Testimonial Fund are informed that the address to be presented to Mr. Schalch is now at Messrs Hamilton and Co. for signature.

27th November, 1877.

BIRTH.

At Allahabad.—On Thursday, the 8th November 1877, the wife of Tarachand Mookerjea, H. M. Customs of a son.

ROAD CESS.

Wanted by Hooghly and Howrah Road Cess Committee an Engineer for the Works of the District. He should have the qualifications of an Executive Engineer of Public Works, and preference will be given to any applicant who has had Executive charge of a Public Works Division or of a post of equal responsibility. Pay to a Public Works Officer 650 (which includes his contribution to Government) and travelling allowance according to Public Works rules, to an Officer not in the Public Works 550 and travelling allowance according to Public Works rules.

Applications to be made to Chairman of Hooghly and Howrah Road Cess Committee, Hooghly, before the 13th December 1877. Appointment proposed to be made from 1st January 1878 and in accordance with circular No. 1209 of the 8th March 1875.

(Sd.) F. H. PELLEW,
Chairman Road Cess Committee, Hooghly.

Hooghly District Road Fund Office, The 28th November 1877.

WANTED.

An Overseer for the Hazareebaugh Road Cess Committee. The applicant must be a passed student of the Calcutta Civil Engineering College and possess sufficient practical knowledge to carry on the work of a Sub-Division. Salary Rs. 65 per mensem including allowance.

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DENO NATH MOOKERJEE,
Vice Chairman, Road Cess Committee, Hazareebaugh.

Hazareebaugh, 17th Novemb r 1877.

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